



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

‘ROC’ Strikes 24th Street Shops Again

Police and Merchants Vow To Catch Graffiti Vandal

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

For the second summer in a row, a graffiti vandal who uses the name “ROC” has permanently scarred a string of storefronts along 24th Street, causing thousands of dollars in damage and an endless amount of fury for Noe Valley shopkeepers.

The most recent vandalism took place during the early morning hours of June 19, when “ROC,” a 17-year-old male who has a history of graffiti vandalism, used hydrofluoric acid cream and a shoe polish sponge to etch his moniker in white capital letters on close to a dozen store windows on the south side of 24th Street between Castro and Church. Although the San Francisco Police Department has put a warrant out for ROC’s arrest on charges of felony and misdemeanor vandalism, in late August he remained at large.

“We’re 100 percent positive who the suspect is,” said Officer Christopher Putz, head of the Police Department’s Graffiti Abatement Program. Putz said the “clean” graffiti style used this time around is identical to the style used previously by ROC and that police have searched his residence and found evidence linking him to the June 19 attack.

Acid etching — in which vandals use



Nancy Ford, of the 24th Street Cheese Company, points out the permanent stains that notorious graffiti vandal “ROC” left on her storefront window in June.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

chemical creams purchased through art supply sites on the Internet or at arts and crafts stores and that are intended for decorative uses, such as frosting or stenciling glass — is a highly destructive form of graffiti. Unlike spray-paint graffiti which can be painted over, scrubbed off, or otherwise covered up, acid-painted

graffiti eats through glass and becomes permanent almost instantaneously, so shopkeepers are left with no other choice but to replace the graffitied window.

“ROC has done a tremendous amount of damage,” said Putz, adding that plain-

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Remembering Sept. 11

Churches and Others to Hold Memorial Services

By Olivia Boler

As the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon draws near, some may find they want to gather with others to reflect on what has passed. In and around Noe Valley, many centers of spirituality and community will do their part to memorialize the tragedy.

According to Rev. Keenan Kelsey, the Noe Valley Ministry on Sanchez Street will hold an open worship service on Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. People are invited to come at will to hear live music on flute, piano, and guitar, and songs and hymns from the choir. Alternating with the music will be prayers, candle lightings, and readings.

“We will also invite people to share their own reflections at various times during the service,” Kelsey says.

The church’s Sunday services on Sept. 8 and 15 at 10:30 a.m. will also honor the victims of Sept. 11 with times set aside for reflection. In addition, on Monday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m., the Ministry, which is a member of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., will host a speaker, Rev. Gilbert



The morning after Sept. 11 a year ago was foggy and bleak. The only signs of activity on our streets were the flyers announcing prayer services. On this year’s Sept. 11, neighbors will again pray for peace at a number of gatherings around the city.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Shaheen Al-Bazi, who is a Presbyterian pastor ministering to refugees in Basrah, Iraq. For information about these and other Noe Valley Ministry events, call 282-2317 or check the church’s web site at www.noevalleyministry.org.

The morning of Sept. 11, St. Paul’s Church at 221 Valley Street will hold a mass at 8:30 a.m. and a special prayer service at 11 a.m. The church also wants the neighborhood to know that the Archdiocese of San Francisco will make St.

Mary’s Cathedral available for the whole day, and that there will be a 7:30 a.m. interfaith service there followed by a reception. St. Mary’s Cathedral is located at 1111 Gough Street. For further details call St. Paul’s at 648-7538.

Noe Valley’s other Catholic church, St. Philip’s Church at 725 Diamond Street, will offer a memorial prayer service on Sept. 11, most likely at noon, according

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Bethany to Leave Noe Valley for The Castro

By Erin O’Briant

Bethany United Methodist Church, a 37-year Noe Valley institution, may be leaving the neighborhood in as few as six months, according to church pastor Karen Oliveto. If the higher-ups in the United Methodist Church will lend the congregation a temporary space, she says, they’ll pack up their Noe Valley home in early 2003. If not, Bethany’s congregation will stay for two to two-and-a-half years in the current Sanchez Street location while they raise funds and complete their new church home.

“The hierarchy has been slow to respond to our request,” says Oliveto.

The new Bethany Church will be located in the long-empty lot on the corner of Market and Noe streets in the Castro District.

Oliveto says she and her congregation of 175 are sad to leave the Noe Valley church where worshippers have gathered since the late 1800s. (Bethany itself has been there since 1965.) But, she adds, they are excited about the expanded opportunities for ministry the Castro space will offer.

“We’re almost a suburban church in Noe Valley, the kind of programming we do,” notes Oliveto. “I see our ministry [in the Castro] as being much more fast-paced and needing to respond to immediate needs within the community—both to individuals and to crises in the community.” Bethany, she points out, is a “reconciling congregation,” which tries to be a bridge between the Christian Church and the gay/

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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'V' Is for Vector. As the J-Church streetcar gathers speed on its way through the southern end of the neighborhood, crosswalk paint frames a view of the sky above. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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City CarShare Finds Space at Glen Park BART

But Group Is Spinning Its Wheels in Noe Valley

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Although City CarShare just opened a new location in nearby Glen Park, CarShare's Volkswagen bugs and station wagons are still circling Noe Valley, looking for a place to park.

On Aug. 1, the popular nonprofit service, whose members can rent cars by the hour or the day, parked two shiny vehi-

cles, a green Volkswagen Beetle and a silver Volkswagen Jetta station wagon, in the BART parking lot at the corner of Bosworth and Diamond streets. With the addition of the Glen Park site, CarShare members can now pick up and return cars at 25 locations around the Bay Area. But unfortunately, they don't have a place to hang their keys in Noe Valley.

Earlier this year, CarShare was hoping to park two cars in the public parking lot on 24th Street near Castro (between Radio Shack and Le Zinc Café). However, the plan met with opposition from Noe Valley merchants, who said they counted on the turnover of the 15 spaces in that lot—the only public parking lot on 24th Street—to stay in business.

After the public lot was crossed off the

list, City CarShare manager Annie Bourdon stepped up her efforts to find an alternative Noe Valley location. "We're looking for at least two spaces, where we can keep the cars at all times," she said.

On July 11, Bourdon attended the monthly meeting of Friends of Noe Valley, to gain support for CarShare and to gather ideas about where the program might park its vehicles. At the meeting, the Friends voted unanimously to bring the bugs to the neighborhood.

"We think CarShare is a fabulous program," said Friends vice president Jeanene Przyblyski. "It makes environmental good sense and has the potential to improve the quality of urban life. With this vote, we wanted to show that Friends of Noe Valley supports City CarShare, rather than has concerns about the program. We believe it will be a definite plus."

Friends members also decided that the most likely way to get CarShare into the neighborhood would be to put one car in each of several parking lots. "We realized that it would be difficult for the merchants who have parking lots to give up more than one space," Przyblyski explained. "But we felt like one space would be a reasonable thing to ask for. We hope to find a couple of lots that are close enough in proximity that it will work out well."

In late July, Przyblyski wrote letters to the managers of Bell Market on 24th Street and Walgreen's on the corner of Castro and Jersey, asking the stores to consider allotting a single parking space to City CarShare.

Both managers told the *Voice* that the decision to provide a parking space would have to be made by the stores' corporate offices and that they had forwarded Przyblyski's letter on to their respective headquarters for consideration.

Przyblyski also wrote a letter to Rev. Keenan Kelsey, pastor of the Noe Valley Ministry, requesting that the church include a space for City CarShare in the

new parking lot it is building at the former Dan's Auto Service at 3861 24th Street. (The Ministry lot is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving.)

Another suggestion made at the Friends of Noe Valley meeting was that CarShare appeal directly to individual homeowners. Perhaps a resident would be willing to trade space in his or her driveway for a certain number of free hours of use of a CarShare vehicle each month.

Przyblyski said she also would like to see a space for CarShare made available in Upper Noe Valley. "The condominium complex that is going to be built on the Reilly mortuary site [at the corner of 29th and Dolores] would be a great place for CarShare," she said.

Meanwhile, City CarShare's Bourdon remains optimistic about finding a Noe Valley site. "We hope we'll have a couple of cars in the neighborhood sometime this fall," she said. "We're willing to be as flexible and creative about finding spaces as we can—as long as the spaces are legal."

She notes that in addition to the new Glen Park BART location, there are two car pickup spots fairly close to Noe Valley: the public parking lot at 18th and Collingwood streets in the Castro, and the New Mission Garage on 22nd between Valencia and Bartlett streets.

In the year and a half since its founding in San Francisco in March 2001, City CarShare has gone from 12 cars and 40 customers to 65 cars and more than 1,700 customers. To sign up, members must pay a \$300 refundable deposit, a \$30 application fee, and \$10 per month dues. Members also pay \$3.50 an hour (up to \$35 a day), plus 37 cents per mile, which includes gas and insurance.

For more information or to suggest a site for cars in Noe Valley, contact Annie Bourdon at annie@citycarshare.org, or by phone at 415-995-8589. You can also log on to City CarShare's web site at www.citycarshare.org. □

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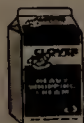


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LETTERS 37¢

The Way This Dog Sees It

Editor:

Hi, woof, woof. It's me, Lance the Guide Dog. Remember when I wrote you last? Well, now I am 4 years old and have been with my handler for about three years. We've been working well together, but we need our community's help.

When I am working (which is whenever I have my harness on), I am encountering a lot of distractions from people, especially those with off-leash animals. They may be trying to help or just say hello, but this is very tough for me because I really need to concentrate on keeping my partner safe. It is way too easy for us to get hurt if I get distracted or interfered with. So please, always ask permission of my handler before addressing or petting me.

Other dogs are a big problem because they do not understand that I cannot play or even sniff. They weave between my partner's legs trying to get to me, and have caused him to fall. I really appreciate the people who have their animals on a leash, pull them aside, and let us pass without physical contact of any kind. I love to meet, greet, and play with other dogs, but *never* when I am in my harness.

This year, my handler and I have been attacked three times, twice by off-leash animals in public places. I didn't know what was happening or why. I just felt teeth sinking into my face, blood flowing out, and an angry dog snarling, growling, and attacking me. I yelped in pain and panicked. My poor handler could not tell what was happening or how to help me—one attacking dog knocked him to the ground in his rush to get at me. It has taken weeks for us to calm down. We have been afraid to go out by ourselves without a sighted human.

The shame is, these incidents can be easily prevented with adequate control of all animals in public. So please, every time you take an animal out, put a leash on it even before you open the door, and maintain full control of the animal while out.

Thank you for your support. We'll keep in touch. Wags and licks to all.

Paco Alfaro
for Lance the Guide Dog
Cesar Chavez Street

Crime Reporting Too P.C.

Editor:

I was very alarmed after reading about the armed robbery on 24th Street in your Police Beat section in the June *Noe Valley Voice*. Do you have a more detailed description of these two thugs? I know you're all very politically correct in Noe and the thought of mentioning the race of these two criminals is very un-P.C., but it would be helpful in this situation, as our lives are possibly at risk.

N. Clifford
23rd Street

Why Is Race Missing?

Editor:

I am curious why you leave out the race of assailants and perpetrators in the Police Beat in the *Noe Valley Voice* [June 2002 noevalleyvoice.com].

Race is one of the most distinguishing characteristics to eyewitnesses and helps people identify criminals, which is why it is included in police reports, wanted posters, etc.

Was this an inadvertent omission? If the Police Beat is a community service meant to inform and help nab bad guys, then please include the race going forward so we can better help the policy.

I greatly enjoy the community-building nature of your newspaper. Keep up the great work.

Price Roe
Jersey Street

Editor's Response: Thanks to N. Clifford and Price Roe for pointing out our past inconsistencies in Police Beat and other crime stories in the Voice. Their letters have helped us to refine our standards. In general, it is the policy of the Noe Valley Voice to report on race or ethnic identity only when it is pertinent to the story (as in the case of a racially motivated "hate" crime). Also, in describing a crime suspect who is still at large, we will give race or ethnicity only when we feel we have sufficient other details (such as age, height, weight, hair color, scars, or clothing) to exclude all but a narrow group of people. According to this rule, in one of the incidents described in the June 2002 issue, we perhaps should have reported the ethnic identity of the assailant. However, our Police Beat column, which recounts crimes that are often two months old, is intended to help local residents be more aware of their surroundings and more vigilant about their safety. We hope you will accept that the Voice has to strike a balance between total reporting of the facts and casting suspicion on an entire group of people simply because of the color of their skin.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jack@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You may also send us mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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'ROC' Mars Stores On 24th Street

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

clothes officers from the Mission and Ingle side stations were actively looking for him. "He's in hiding and he knows we're looking for him, so he's making himself very difficult to find. He's probably staying with friends, using back doors, going in and out at odd hours."

Noe Valley shops whose windows were tagged include Cotton Basics, Noe Valley Bakery, Astrid's Rabat Shoes, Panetti's Gifts, the French Tulip, Designers' Club, Tuggey's Hardware, and the 24th Street Cheese Company.

"It's going to cost about \$1,000 for us to replace the window," said Nancy Ford, manager of the 24th Street Cheese Company. "I'm so angry about this!"

"It's just really discouraging," said Kay Lamming, manager of Cotton Basics on the corner of Castro and 24th.

Lamming received an estimate of \$1,500 to replace the window that ROC damaged on the 24th Street side of her shop. But she still is not sure whether to go ahead. "I could replace the window, but this guy or someone else is going to come by and etch or paint again," she said. "I'm at the point where I don't even see the graffiti on the window anymore, it's happened so many times. It's just too depressing."

In July 2001, ROC used a drill bit to etch his name on stores on the north side of 24th Street. He was eventually apprehended and arrested. But because ROC is a juvenile, his criminal record has been sealed. Consequently, neither police nor officials at the Juvenile Probation Department would provide information on prior arrests, convictions, or sentencing.

However, Putz did tell the *Voice* that his prime suspect lives a 10-minute walk away from 24th Street. Although Putz believes it's a coincidence that ROC made his two hits of Noe Valley in the summer, he thinks it's no coincidence he chose 24th Street.

"It's a high-visibility area," Putz said. "James Lick Middle School is nearby, so he knows Lick students are going to see his work, as are people who catch Muni here. Areas with large Muni lines are very attractive to graffiti vandals. This kind of graffiti is all about attracting attention, getting your name out there, and getting people to know you."

But merchants like Marjory Panetti, whose gift shop window still bears ROC's signature, are the ones who will remember him the longest—and not fondly. "I'm usually pretty tolerant of young people. Youthful high spirits of boys is one thing, but a person signing his name with this [acid] graffiti is looking for more than a momentary thrill," she said. "I was pretty devastated when I saw the window."

Panetti said she is getting an estimate to replace her entire storefront window, and the security system around it. "I guess we just have to accept that this is the cost of doing business in this city. I mean, what am I going to do, install death rays in the window?"

Talk of Filing a Civil Suit

Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys children's clothing store on the opposite side of 24th Street, had her window etched by ROC during the summer of 2001. And she forked over \$1,700 to replace it. So when she heard about this year's vandalism, Yenne contacted some of the merchants who were hit and encouraged them to file police reports.

She also discussed the possibility of filing a civil suit against ROC's family, to seek compensation for the damage done to their shops. "When he continues to do damage like this, I believe his family needs to be held accountable," said Yenne. "Most merchants can't afford to replace their windows because we've got a \$500 or \$1,000 deductible on our insurance. That means the cost of the window is going to have to come out of our own pockets."

Other merchants want ROC to pay back the money himself. "I think he should earn the money to replace the windows by working after school," said Cotton Basic's Lamming.

The Typical Tagger

Although "ROC" is Noe Valley shopkeepers' chief nemesis these days (*see front-page story*), he certainly is not alone in tagging the city. Officer Christopher Putz, who runs the Police Department's Graffiti Abatement Program, says he has received 200 reports of graffiti vandalism so far this year, and "there are hundreds and hundreds of incidents that are never reported."

Putz describes the typical juvenile tagger as a male, aged 13 to 17, who is doing poorly in school. Three in 10 are repeat offenders like ROC, he says.

"There are also a tremendous number of adults arrested for this kind of vandalism," says Putz. "The typical adult offender is a male between the ages of 20 and 35. They've been doing it for years, starting out as kids. They grew up someplace else, but San Francisco attracts them because it's a big international city. They know their graffiti can be seen."

Putz says taggers often take photographs or videotape themselves painting or etching. "They have

albums of their 'work,'" he notes. "It's something they're proud of."

Though he understands that apprehending and then steering taggers like ROC to more fruitful pursuits would be the best solution, Putz says in the meantime there are a few ways merchants can make their stores less graffiti-friendly. One is to coat their windows with a protective film so that a chemical such as acid cream won't burn into the glass. Most glass companies now offer this kind of protective coating. Should a tagger use acid cream on the window, only the film would need to be replaced, at a typical cost of \$100 to \$200.

Putz also believes that the cleaner the neighborhood is, the less likely it will be targeted by taggers. "They usually hit in areas where they will be tolerated," he says. "If you can, sweep in front of your shop daily, pick up the garbage, and remove signs and notices from telephone poles. The less trash around, the better chance that the graffiti artist will go somewhere else."

Said the Cheese Company's Ford, "He needs to make remunerations or go to jail."

But once ROC is apprehended, it will be up to a Juvenile Court judge to determine what happens to him.

According to Cassie Coleman of Juvenile Probation, punishment for a repeat juvenile graffiti offender such as ROC can range anywhere from participating in a short-term rehabilitation program along with community service, to being sent to Log Cabin Ranch, an incarceration and rehabilitation facility in La Honda, Calif. Offenders typically serve a nine- to 12-month sentence at the facility. In any case, she says, the juvenile also may be required to pay a fine and reimburse his victims.

Officer Putz thinks ROC deserves the maximum. "My hope is that ROC will be incarcerated until he is 18 and that he will

have to pay restitution to the victims. He should be involved in a program where he will be required to pick up garbage and clean graffiti in areas he has vandalized."

Meanwhile, Putz urged the merchants to stay on top of reporting graffiti to police. "It's great that the merchants came together and talked about the situation. Since there were multiple victims filing reports, I picked up the case and worked on it right away, which wouldn't have happened had just one person filed a report."

Noe Valley Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo is also on the lookout, and has approached ROC's parole officer to ask if the merchants can attend ROC's next court date. Says Lombardo, "I want the judge to know how the merchants feel and to hear them out. The judge should know how sick they are of this." □



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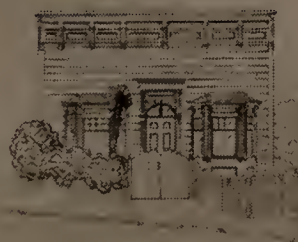
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Many Ways to Remember Sept. 11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to Father Michael Healy. Call 282-0141 for the exact time.

Find Sanctuary in a Garden

Bethany United Methodist Church at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper will open its sanctuary all day to the public, and there will be a prayer service led by Rev. Karen Oliveto at noon. Susan Foster, a staff member at Bethany, describes the sanctuary as a quiet, warmly lit place.

The church also recently dedicated a garden located at 2299 Market Street near Noe, across from the Baghdad Café. On Sept. 11, the garden will be open all day and there will be a 7 p.m. prayer service. Foster encourages people to stop by, especially since the garden is not often open to the public. "It's an oasis in the middle of a very busy intersection," she says, a serene place with grass and flowering plants, two benches for sitting, and murals on the surrounding walls. Someone will be on hand at the garden to greet visitors. For more information, call 647-8393.

At 8:45 a.m. on Sept. 11, Pastor Joe Bell of the Church at San Francisco, the bright blue Pentecostal church that has long occupied the corner of Church and 28th streets, will host a spiritual tribute to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11. The theme will be "Where Do We Go from Here?" and the service will include songs, a moment of silence, a bell salute, and thoughts from the community. Call the church at 642-0302 for further details.

Seminar on Six World Religions

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, located at 455 Fair Oaks Street, has a regular Wednesday evening gathering at 6 p.m. However, on Sept. 11 the church will push it back to 6:30 p.m. There will be a memorial Eucharist, and Rev. Rosa Lee Harden will preside.

"This is a time for people to deal with feelings of lingering grief," says Rev. John Kirkley of Holy Innocents. "After the tragedy last year, there was a sense of terrible shock and grief in our community, and then a concern beyond that for people to find a way to move towards a place of forgiveness and healing. Of course, there's the large issue of justice, but many have expressed concern with not losing sight of the underlying issues of poverty and misunderstanding, in many ways the causes of the attacks. Many members of our church feel that we need to resolve the underlying tensions and causes in a non-violent way."

Also, starting Sept. 25, Kirkley will lead a six-part series on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. titled "Building Bridges of Understanding," a curriculum developed by the California Council of Churches.

"It will be an opportunity for people to form an understanding of people of other faiths," says Kirkley. "It's an introduction to the six major faiths of the world: Christianity, Judaism, Hindu, Islam, Buddhism, and Sikhism. We hope the workshop will promote reconciliation and understanding for other traditions." To find out more, call Holy Innocents at 824-5142.

In the same spirit of understanding and education, the Congregation of Sha'ar Zahav will hold an interfaith memorial on Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. There will be clergy and

representatives from various faiths to support the community in coming together for a service, which will be open to everyone. The synagogue is located at 290 Dolores Street. For more information call 861-6932.

Day of Remembrance

If you feel that you would rather stay in the secular realm, there are of course other options.

The City of San Francisco will hold a "Day of Remembrance," beginning with a 5:15 a.m. ceremony at City Hall officiated by Mayor Willie Brown. Throughout the day (doors open at 4:30 a.m.), people are invited to come to City Hall to sign a commemorative book, which will be sent to the New York Memorial on behalf of the citizens of San Francisco.

Representatives from the mayor's office, the Board of Supervisors, and the Arab Cultural Center, among others, will also attend a public tribute to the heroes and victims of Sept. 11 from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. at Crissy Field. There will be tributes and prayers from the interfaith community (Glide Memorial, Grace Cathedral, and Metropolitan Community Church) and a moment of silence at 5:45 a.m., when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the World Trade Center. Also planned is a flyover by the Blue Angels.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a blood drive in its 12th-floor offices at 235 Montgomery Street. The event, which is open to all interested donors, runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; call 392-4520 if you have questions.

At 6 p.m., the San Francisco Symphony will hold a free outdoor memorial concert at Yerba Buena Gardens at Mission and Fourth streets. The concert will feature work by American composers and will include Leonard Bernstein's "New York, New York," Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," and Samuel

Barber's "Adagio for Strings." Violinist Joshua Bell will be the featured soloist, and Michael Tilson Thomas will conduct.

For links to these and other community events, see www.sfdayofremembrance.com.

A Call to Activism

Back in the neighborhood, Global Exchange on 24th Street will display a peace altar in its window at the beginning of the month. Shell Mae, the store's manager, hopes the altar will inspire people to remember the sadness of the tragedy, but also to work towards peace.

"In the past, we've done a Day of the Dead window with wishes for peace," says Mae. "Last year, we put up pictures of the World Trade Center, as well as images of peace and justice including activists such as Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi, Chief Joseph, and John F. Kennedy." The store also posted a list of the names of the Sept. 11 victims.

Global Exchange also arranged tours to Afghanistan right after Sept. 11—for the victims' families, as well as for the victims of the bombings in Afghanistan. The store continues to arrange these tours, Mae says.

"We want to help people understand why this happened rather than react before they know what's going on. We created the 'Our Community Is a Hate-Free Zone' poster after the attacks and gave them away. We still have them, and people are welcome to pick up as many as they want."

Mae says she realizes that many people are trying to put Sept. 11 out of their minds. But during the month of September, it will be difficult not to think about that horrible day.

"People don't talk about it anymore," Mae says. "But we hope they'll start to think about it again and that activism will be reinvigorated once more." □

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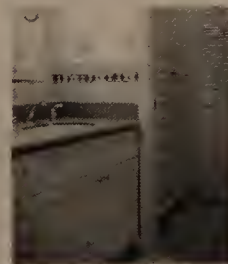
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The Cost of Living in Noe

No Fire Sales on Homes This Summer, But Renters Smiling

By Corrie M. Anders

The hot new parlor game, right up there with *Survivor* and *American Idol*, is trying to figure out how high Noe Valley housing prices can fly before crashing back to earth.

There's also the renter-landlord version of reality real estate: After two years in freefall, how low will rents sink before hitting bottom?

"We saw a lot of deals out there," said renter Peter Landreth, who inked a \$1,850 lease last month on a two-bedroom apartment on Noe Street. "Prices have come down quite a bit. Some landlords were willing to throw in a free month's rent or garage."

As for house sales, on a recent weekend, dozens of shoppers poured through an "Edwardian charmer" on Noe Street that was being shown by Lorrie French, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker. In a neighborhood where \$1 million

homes have become routine, the Edwardian's \$849,000 price tag didn't seem to faze anyone.

"The buyers are out there," despite all the bad news about the economy, French said. "We [agents] keep saying, 'Where is the money coming from?'"

Her theory? "A lot of it is coming from buyers who pulled out their money before the stock market went kaput, and a lot are pulling out what's left."

Still, French has detected a slight shift in the wind.

"Buyers are starting to be a little more conservative," she said, noting that homes no longer attract 20 or 30 offers as they did during the dot-com boom of the late '90s. More typically, sellers will receive up to three bids—"five to six max."

To be sure, the latest data from Zephyr Real Estate shows fewer sales this summer of homes and condominiums in Noe Valley. A total of 21 single-family homes changed hands during June and July—a quarter fewer than the 28 homes sold during the same period a year earlier. Twelve condos sold during the two summer months, down from 17 in summer 2001.

Though the crush of buyers has eased

Noe Valley Rents*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (April – June 2002)	Average Rents a Year Ago (April – June 2001)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (–)
Studio	\$ 1,112 / mo.	\$ 1,376 / mo.	–19.2%
1 bedroom	1,561 / mo.	1,766 / mo.	–11.6%
2 bedrooms	2,185 / mo.	2,651 / mo.	–17.6%
3 or more bedrooms	2,665 / mo.	3,358 / mo.	–20.6%

* Source: Rent Tech, Inc. (www.renttech.com)

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Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
July 02	15	\$525,000	\$1,375,000	\$865,267	26	102%
June 02	6	\$620,000	\$1,120,000	\$836,333	22	107%
May 02	13	\$635,000	\$1,520,000	\$1,022,153	35	109%
July 01	11	\$390,000	\$1,300,000	\$808,181	30	101%
Condominiums						
July 02	5	\$340,000	\$925,000	\$563,200	10	109%
June 02	7	\$525,000	\$825,000	\$674,143	22	104%
May 02	14	\$375,000	\$1,575,000	\$722,714	42	103%
July 01	10	\$320,000	\$640,000	\$503,500	36	100%
2 to 4 unit buildings						
July 02	8	\$660,000	\$1,420,000	\$1,046,875	64	101%
June 02	6	\$810,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,083,667	37	103%
May 02	4	\$750,000	\$900,000	\$826,500	24	113%
July 01	4	\$575,000	\$975,000	\$720,000	43	98%
5+ unit buildings						
July 02	—	—	—	—	—	—
June 02	2	\$880,000	\$2,150,000	\$1,515,000	32	99%
May 02	1	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	139	97%
July 01	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (closings) recorded during month. "Noe Valley" in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

NTV 9/02

rentals slipped 17.6 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively. In one quarter alone, rents on one-bedrooms went from \$1,649 to \$1,561, a drop of 5.3 percent.

Obviously, this decline has been a boon to renters. Landreth, a Stanford University law student, and his fiancée found they were able to "take our time" and look at numerous apartments rather than "take an apartment because it was the only thing available."

That's what happened two years ago when the couple moved into a studio apartment in North Beach, paying nearly the same as their current rent.

"We had to take the first apartment we saw," said Landreth. "The market was crazy. Now we've found this time around we had a lot more options."

Of course, the renter's gain is the landlord's pain. Jan Leja has been trying to rent his two-bedroom Noe Valley apartment for two months. Initially, Leja set the rent at \$2,700, the price the last occupants paid. Since then, he has lowered the rent to \$2,000 and last month dropped it to \$1,900.

"Can you imagine that?" Leja said. "A year ago when the market was hot, we'd put in an ad and a hundred people would show up with money in their hands. Now we can't get anybody. It's dreadful."

Prospective renters have come by to size up Leja's apartment, which boasts "fantastic views." But Leja has failed to get them to sign on the dotted line.

"They say, 'Oh, I have another ten to fifteen apartments to look at.'"

Bethany Church

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lesbian/bisexual/transgender community.

The new four-story building will house a performance space in the basement, retail stores that fit with the church's mission on the ground floor, a multipurpose and worship space on the second, classrooms and a chapel on the third, and space for the Little People's Workshop, a parent-run co-op, on the fourth floor.

Not to worry, Oliveto says. All the programs and community groups that now use Bethany's space are invited to move with the church. "We would never just turn around and say, 'You're out of here,'" Oliveto notes. "We plan on having space for all our groups," including the Dolores Street Baptist Church, which also currently meets at the Sanchez Street church.

The space where the new church will be built was once occupied by Trinity United Methodist Church (as well as by the Eureka Theater), but its building was

destroyed by arson in 1981. The small congregation was unable to rebuild or make use of the space. Trinity merged with Bethany in 1998, and the congregants went to work deciding together how best to use the plot of land. After years of prayer and study, Oliveto says, they decided to build a new church.

Oliveto hopes the old church, built in 1907, will be taken over by a developer and used to provide affordable housing in Noe Valley, but she can't say for sure what will happen to the building on the corner of Sanchez and Clipper. According to her, it is not suited to the needs of the 21st century. "It's an old, funky building."

It's a time of change, but Oliveto says her flock is ready for the move. "We've really worked hard as a congregation to look at the future and how we can best serve in the coming decades," Oliveto says. "It was a very conflicted time that we had together, but people hung in there and we grew spiritually. It's not if we move, it's when we move. People are looking forward to what God is going to do with us."

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off, shoppers continue to overpay for choice Noe Valley properties.

Zephyr's figures reveal that in June, homebuyers on average ponied up 7 percent more than the seller's asking price, compared with a year earlier when they paid right at the asking price. Buyers in July forked over 2 percent more than the asking price, slightly higher than the 1 percent premium of a year ago. It was a similar overbidding story for condos.

Overall, single-family home prices were 7 percent higher than in 2001, while condo prices jumped more than 16 percent.

The most expensive properties this summer included a four-bedroom, three-bath home in the 1200 block of Diamond Street, which sold in July for \$1,375,000, and a two-bedroom, two-bath home in the 1200 block of Dolores Street that closed at \$1,120,000.

Small apartment buildings were the one area of Noe Valley real estate that boasted a surge in transactions. Sales of two- to four-unit buildings were up by half—14 sales during the summer, in contrast to 9 sales a year earlier. "Most of them are twos, which are at a premium," notes Marcia Thomas, assistant sales manager at Zephyr. Two-unit buildings are "easier to TIC (tenants-in-common) and easier to convert into condos."

The pickup in sales of flats and apartments may indicate that investors think rents are close to bottoming out. Still, the latest statistics compiled by Rent Tech, Inc., an apartment listing firm, confirm that rents fell deeper into the basement during the second quarter of 2002.

In the past year, the average rent on a studio apartment has dropped 19.2 percent, from \$1,376 to \$1,112 per month, while a three-bedroom unit declined 20.6 percent, going from \$3,358 to an average \$2,665. Two-bedroom and one-bedroom

Edward Jones Ties for Highest Ranking in J.D. Power and Associates Investor Customer Satisfaction Study

The financial services firm Edward Jones tied for first in J.D. Power and Associates' first ever survey of customer satisfaction among full-service investors according to Kathy Zucchi, the firm's Noe Valley investment representative. The ranking released in June as the 2002 Full-Service Customer Satisfaction Study ranked Edward Jones ahead of 19 other firms.

"I'm thrilled about our placement on the J.D. Power and Associates ranking," Zucchi said. "Edward Jones is committed to providing a high level of service to our clients. We strive to align our resources so that we are focusing everything we can to support our relationships with our clients."

The 2002 Full-Service Investor Satisfaction Study was based on responses from more than 8,500 customers who invest with one of the 21 firms included in the study. Six key factors were considered, including customer service, advice, account management, information resources, web site capability, and cost of transactions and services.

Edward Jones, the only major financial services firm advising individual investors exclusively, traces its roots to 1871, and currently serves nearly six million clients. The firm offers its clients a variety of investments, including certificates of deposit, taxable and non-taxable bonds, stocks, and mutual funds.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 8,500 offices in the U.S. and through its affiliates in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices by 2003.

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POLICE BEAT

The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations during the months of June and July 2002.

Four Residential Burglaries: June 14-26; 300 to 500 block of 27th Street

A string of residential burglaries occurred along 27th Street between Church and Castro streets from June 14 to 26. At press time, the suspect or suspects remained at large. Due to lack of physical evidence, Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) was not called to three of the four homes for follow-up. All of the cases have been assigned to the San Francisco Police Department's Burglary Division.

The first incident occurred in the 400 block of 27th Street sometime during the weekend of June 14-16, while the resident was away from home. Upon the resident's return on Sunday, June 16, he noticed that his \$2,000 laptop and \$900 Nikon camera were missing from the dining room table. He then discovered that the rear door leading to his backyard was open. He did not find any signs of forced entry and believes the suspect or suspects could have entered his home through one of the windows he keeps unlocked and partially open.

On Thursday, June 20, between 11 a.m. and 6:55 p.m., a burglary occurred in a flat in the 300 block of 27th Street (between Church and Sanchez streets). The resident had locked his front door when he left home at 11 a.m. When he returned several hours later, he found open boxes

on his bed and the drawers of his dresser partially opened. He also discovered a ring and a bracelet were missing, each valued at \$200. Police found the resident's back door locked and all the windows secured and did not see any signs of forced entry.

The adjoining flat also was burglarized that afternoon between the hours of 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. The resident told police that upon leaving her flat, she had locked her door, but did not use the deadbolt. When she returned, she found her jewelry box and dresser drawers thrown on her bed. Several pieces of fine jewelry were missing, including a diamond and yellow gold ring valued at \$3,000, an antique watch valued at \$1,000, and a pair of gold hoop earrings valued at \$500. Police checked the doors and found no signs of forced entry. CSI was called to the home to dust the jewelry box and drawers for fingerprints.

About a week later, on Wednesday, June 26, a home in the 500 block of 27th Street was burglarized sometime between the hours of 7:15 and 10 p.m. The two residents locked the front and back doors before leaving to go to dinner. When they arrived home, they found the front door unlocked and discovered their DVD player was missing, along with two gold rings, a Palm Pilot, and a Canon digital camera. Police found no signs of forced entry on either the back or front door, but one of the residents said he had left the bathroom window open. Police believe the bathroom window was the point of entry and the front door the point of exit.

Attempted Store Robbery: 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18; 4100 block of 24th Street

At 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, a 25-year-old man walked into a pet supplies store in the 4100 block of 24th Street (near Diamond) and started to place a fish tank filter in his pants. When a clerk asked

what he was doing, the suspect shoved the clerk's chest and fled the store, dropping the filter on the way out. The clerk fell to the ground and hit her head on a fish tank, but told the responding police officer that she did not need medical attention. The clerk also told the officer that the same man had tried previously to steal a fish tank filter. The officer advised her to refuse the customer service and to call police should he come into the store again. The police officer searched the area but failed to locate the suspect.

Theft of Animal: Between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 27; 4200 block of 24th Street

Two men and a woman, all between the ages of 20 and 25, entered a pet store in the 4200 block of 24th Street (near Douglas) at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 27. When they asked an employee how to feed a baby African Grey parrot, the employee grew suspicious because he knew that a baby African Grey had been stolen from a pet store on Judah Street the week before. While the clerk was at the front of the store talking to one of the men, whom he recognized as having made purchases from the store in the past, the other man and the woman were huddled in front of a cage that contained three parrots, including a baby African Grey parrot with a black beak and red tail. The woman eventually joined the man at the front of the store as he purchased baby formula to feed the parrot.

Meanwhile, the man who had been near the birdcage walked past the cash register and left the store. After paying for the formula, the other man and woman also left. A short while later, another store employee discovered that the baby African Grey parrot was missing from the cage.

Both pet store employees told police that the cage had been locked, but that it could be opened by a universal key pur-

chased from any pet store that sold the cage. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Division.

Aggravated Assault: 1:40 p.m. on Thursday, July 4; 1300 block of Castro Street

At 1:40 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, a 40-year-old man was walking out of a drug-store in the 1300 block of Castro Street when he saw a 19-year-old male in a late-model white Ford Mustang racing out of the adjacent parking lot. The pedestrian told the driver "not to drive like that because it's dangerous and someone could get hurt." The driver responded with derogatory comments and expletives.

The pedestrian then walked through the parking lot and began to cross Jersey Street. The Mustang driver, who had been headed in the opposite direction, made a quick U-turn and came within a foot of hitting the man. The man was able to jump out of the way, but injured his ankle in the process. The driver fled east-bound on Jersey Street.

Street Robbery with Gun: 9:22 p.m. on Thursday, July 4; Diamond and 24th streets

A 49-year-old man was walking south-bound on Diamond Street near 24th Street around 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 4, when he noticed two males, aged 16 to 20 and wearing dark hooded sweatshirts, hanging out in the area. As the man neared the 700 block of Diamond Street, the two suspects stepped in front of him to block his path. One was holding a black handgun and told the man, "Give it up, bitch!" The man reached into his front pants pocket and took out \$18, which the other suspect grabbed. The suspect holding the gun then yelled, "Got anything else?" and the man pulled his wallet from his rear

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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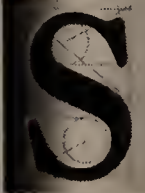


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POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

pocket. The other suspect grabbed it and took out \$100. The suspect with the gun again yelled, "Got anything else?" and the man took off his \$300 Seiko watch. After grabbing the watch, the two suspects then backed away from the man while yelling, "Walk the other way, bitch!"

The man began to walk northbound on Diamond, but soon turned around to see where the suspects were heading and began to follow them. As he approached the corner of Diamond and 24th streets, he told a stranger on the street that he had just been robbed and asked if he'd seen where the two suspects had run to. The stranger told the man he had seen the suspects run into the parking lot of a nearby school, but that the man should call the police, which he did from a pay phone.

Upon their arrival at the scene, police searched the area but could not locate the suspects. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Robbery Division.

How to Contact the SFPD

Noe Valley straddles two San Francisco police districts—Mission and Ingleside—each with its own turf. Mission Police Station covers the northern half of Noe Valley, from 21st Street to Cesar Chavez Street. Ingleside Police Station has jurisdiction over the southern half of Noe Valley, from Cesar Chavez Street to Glen Park.

Residents and merchants who live or work within the Mission Police District can report recurring crimes or safety problems by phoning the station at 558-5400. You may also send e-mail to Captain Greg Corrales at gregory_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us or attend police-community meetings held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crime, call the non-traceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez—can contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Captain Kevin Dillon at kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside police-community meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at Ingleside Station, 1 Sergeant John Young Lane, near the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. (Cell phone users, dial 553-8090.)

Shoplifting: 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, July 11; 3900 block of 24th Street

At 5:45 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, a security officer of a grocery store in the 3900 block of 24th Street observed two 15-year-old males enter the store and walk to the liquor aisle. He then saw one boy place a bottle of Bacardi rum under his sweatshirt and walk away. The other boy walked to the bakery aisle and took a box of cookies from the shelf. Both boys proceeded to the checkout line, and the boy with the cookies paid for them.

The boys left the store, with the boy who took the rum making no attempt to pay for the liquor. The security officer detained the boys outside the store and asked for the rum. The boy with the bottle reached into his sweatshirt, pulled it out, and handed it to the guard. The guard then called police, who once on the scene, read the boy who had shoplifted his Miranda rights. Police then transported both boys to Mission Station.

A computer check revealed no prior criminal record, and the boy who shoplifted the rum was issued a citation for petty theft. Police called both boys' parents to pick up their sons at the station. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Juvenile Division.

Attempted Street Robbery: 11:23 p.m. on Friday, July 12; 24th Street between Diamond and Douglass streets

At 11:23 p.m. on Friday, July 12, a 42-year-old male resident of Elizabeth Street was walking westbound along 24th Street near Castro when he noticed three male teenagers approaching behind him. As he neared Diamond Street, the man began to walk in the street, where the light was better. He soon heard the three teens make a comment to him. He turned around and replied, "Don't mess with me." One suspect, who was wearing a white baseball cap and possibly holding a gun, yelled, "Give me what you got." The man yelled loudly, "Leave me alone," and the three teens turned around and ran east on 24th Street.

When he arrived home, the man called police. Several officers canvassed the area looking for the suspects. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Robbery Division.

Store Burglary: 6:14 a.m. on Sunday, July 14; 3900 block of 24th Street

At 6:14 a.m. on Sunday morning, July 14, police responded to an audible burglar alarm inside a clothing store in the 3900 block of 24th Street. They found the lock to the front door punched in and the front door open. They searched the store for suspects, but found no one inside. Police then notified the owner of the store, who was asked to conduct a visual inventory upon her arrival on the scene. She determined that one white sleeveless woman's shirt, valued at \$69, was missing from a display mannequin, but said she would not know if more clothing was taken until she

completed a thorough inventory. Police observed fingerprints on the front glass door and requested that CSI come to the store for follow-up. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Division.

Residential Burglary: Between 8 a.m. and 7:10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16; 200 block of 28th Street

At 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16, a resident of the 200 block of 28th Street near Church left her apartment locked and secured with the exception of one bedroom window, which she left open about three inches. When she returned home at 7:10 p.m., the home was still locked, but she noticed several items missing, including a laptop computer, two Nikon cameras, and \$10 in change. Police determined that the point of entry and exit was the bedroom window, and requested that CSI come to the home for further investigation. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Division.

Assault with Knife: 4:35 p.m. on Friday, July 26; Upper Noe Recreation Center (also called Day Street Park), 30th and Sanchez streets

A fight involving several male juveniles broke out around 4 p.m. on Friday, July 26, at the playground within Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets. By the time police arrived at 4:35 p.m., the altercation had ended. Nearby, on the 1600 block of Sanchez Street, police found a large group of people standing around, watching paramedics treat a 17-year-old male who had been stabbed in the abdomen with a knife. The youth, who lives near the park, said he had attempted to break up the fight. He was taken by ambulance to San Francisco General Hospital, where he was admitted. Paramedics also treated a 20-year-old male allegedly involved in the original skirmish. He had been stabbed with a

screwdriver and received a one-inch cut to the left side of his ribcage. He was taken by ambulance to San Francisco General Hospital, treated, and released.

Four other males, between the ages of 15 and 21, who are believed to be members of the so-called "31st Street Gang," were apprehended by police on the 1800 block of Church Street. Police called an ambulance for one of the four, a 21-year-old male, who had suffered two large cuts to his head. He was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, received 10 stitches, and was released.

Several witnesses identified a 15-year-old member of the group as the one who stabbed the 17-year-old youth with a knife. All four alleged gang members were taken to Mission Police Station for questioning. Three were released, while the 15-year-old male was arrested. At press time, the San Francisco District Attorney had filed charges against the youth, who was awaiting a court date.

Store Burglary: Between 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 29, and 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 30; 4100 block of 24th Street

The owner of a flower shop in the 4100 block of 24th Street locked the doors to her shop when she left for the day at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 29. When she returned at 8 a.m. the next day, she found the store's rear door broken in half and a shoe smudge on a portion of the door. The owner also discovered that \$65 was missing from the store. The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Division.

MISTAKE

The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo, as well as Ingleside Sergeant Mikail Ali and Officer Mike Smith, for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Kathy Dalle-Molle.

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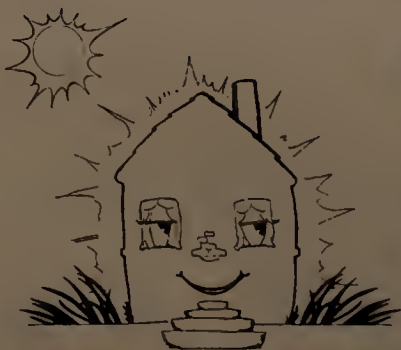
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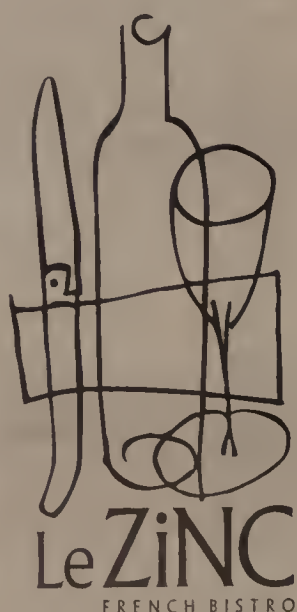
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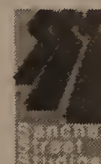
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This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

September. Wide-eyed children line up at school doors throughout Noe Valley. Carefully folded sleeping bags and tents rest in closets. *The Sopranos* are back, HBO Sunday night. And the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., reverberates everywhere, from public forums to our most private thoughts.

September. Amid our collective mourning for those who can no longer gather with friends and family in neighborhoods much like ours, it is a relief to remember the joys of life. There is much to celebrate in our little neck of the woods.

Dona and Ray Elsbernd, for instance. On Sunday, June 23, the couple celebrat-

ed their 60th wedding anniversary with a blessing in St. Paul's Church by their pastor, **Father Mario Farana**. Residents of 28th Street since 1952, the Elsbernds raised two sons and a daughter here: **Bill, Joe, and Diane**. All three brought their spouses to the blessing and subsequent party at Yianni's Greek restaurant on Church Street. Also attending were grandchildren **Meghan, Sean, and Matthew**, and a host of other relatives, as well as many friends from the parish. Folks flew in from as far away as Idaho, Maryland, and Massachusetts.

"We enjoyed it very much," says Dona, 82. "A lot of pictures of our years of marriage and even before then were displayed, pictures from when we were real young and grew up in Blackfoot, Idaho. I went to school with Ray's twin sisters." Ray is now 85.

Married in San Diego during World War II, the couple settled in San Francisco shortly thereafter. Ray landed a job overhauling and repairing aircraft at Alameda



Michael Bolos and Azia Yenne held their wedding ceremony on Aug. 10, 2002, at St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street.

Photo by Beverly Tharp



This Eureka Street house, designed by Philip Mathews, is the recipient of a 2002 Gold Nugget Award. Photo by David Duncan Livingston

Naval Air Station, and later shifted to planning and estimating work. He retired from the station in 1980, after 35 years on the job. Dona is also retired, having worked for the San Francisco Unified School District in food preparation until 1985.

And here's a little advice from Dona on how to have a happy marriage: "You just have to learn to accept, and be tolerant, and try to be understanding, and always have a kiss at night before you go to sleep."

Two lovebirds who just might heed that advice are **Azia Yenne** and **Michael Bolos**. They were married Aug. 10, 2002. It was a real Noe Valley affair. Azia manages *Small Frys*, a fetching children's store on 24th Street, which her mom, **Carol Yenne**, has owned for the past 11 years.

"The fun thing is that the Noe Valley Bakery did the cake—white with mango and chocolate frosting. It was gorgeously decorated with what looked like pearls

and little gold jewels. Indigo V did spectacular flowers—orchids for the bride and roses for the maid of honor. **Glen** from MOP did almost everyone's hair. **Beverly Tharp** from the *Voice* did the pictures, and Azia and Michael were married by **Father Michael Healy** at St. Philip's," muses the happy mother of the bride. "And they were introduced by **J.R. Hubbard**. He works at Noe Valley Auto Body Shop, which is also on 24th Street."

Now that they've returned from their honeymoon in Maui, the newlyweds have settled into a flat on—guess where? That's right, 24th Street. Unfortunately, Bolos does have to leave 24th Street often. He works in the University of San Francisco's computer department.

One person who doesn't have to leave the neighborhood to go to work is **Philip Mathews**. An architect, Mathews lives and works in a very contemporary Eureka Street home, which he designed and built along with partner **Ed Graziani**. On June 27, at a banquet at Moscone Center, Mathews' design was given a 2002 Gold Nugget Award of Merit by PCBC (Pacific Coast Builders Conference). His was one of only three awards given in its category: custom homes under 3,500 square feet.

"It was a nice thrill to get an award, because any project like this entails a lot of time and effort, not only my own but that of many others," Mathews relayed in August via e-mail from a cruise ship on the Baltic Sea.

The home, located at 398 Eureka Street, was designed for frequent home entertaining and to offer maximum flexibility, he says. The garage, which doubles as Mathews' design studio, has glass doors that allow light to flood in during the day. The two-story living room also

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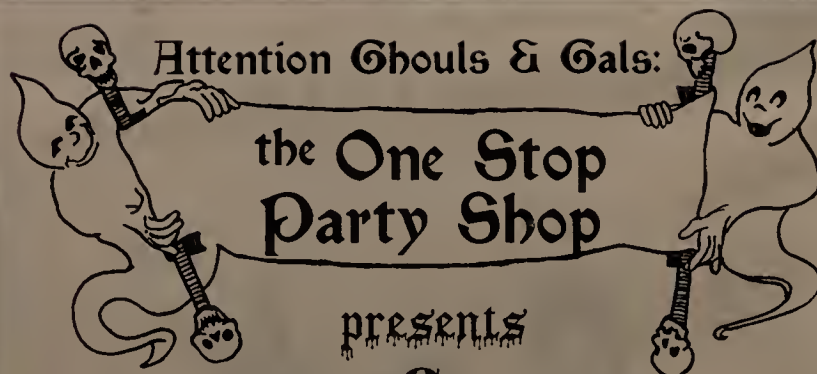
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This 'n' That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

serves as a library and conference room for formal client meetings.

Though some of the neighbors initially opposed his home's size and design, Mathews hopes they now will take a second look. "Ed and I wanted to build a modern house full of light. In a sophisticated city like San Francisco, we should have buildings that reflect a range of tastes, and current styles as well as old."

PCBC initiated the Gold Nugget Awards in 1963 to recognize builder and developer excellence throughout the western U.S. It has since expanded to include Pacific Rim countries. This is Mathews' first PCBC award.

Some young award-winners to note are members of the Douglass Playground sports teams. They brought to the Douglass Clubhouse two championship trophies in the 11-year-old and younger category for San Francisco Recreation and Park's Sunset Division League.

First-time co-ed flag football champions are Andrew, Max, Ben, and Matthew Bologna, Lewis DeTubly, Lorin Brock, Peter Florin, Jared Gropp, Jesse Barrows, Ryan Mullaney, and Martin Steinkamp.

The repeat basketball champions are Marcus Wells, Andrew Bologna, Justin Baker-Rhett, Lewis De Tubly, Jesse Barrows, Spencer McDonald, and Gabe Hersh.

"There are several kids in this group to watch," says recreation director Ben Price, who coached both teams along with fellow director Allison Kent. "They are superior athletes for their age and will surely get recruited to play for local high schools in the city, and eventually in Division One colleges."

One tiny tot who seems destined to be an athlete of some kind is Miles Alexander Wittig.

Miles was born July 21, 2001, at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco. His dad Eric Wittig's primary job is teaching sailing at Olympic Circle Sailing Club in Berkeley. For fun on his days off, he teaches flying at Hayward Airport.

Miles' mom, Gretchen Wengenroth, reports that their active 1-year-old "already loves sailing, crosscountry skiing, and camping. He also likes wheels and gadgets, and he's good with his hands, good with problem-solving. He's very physical, loves to kick a ball, and takes swimming classes at the Recreation Center for the Handicapped."

You might think that such a dynamo would be a handful, but it turns out that parenting him "feels like the most natural thing in the world," Gretchen says. "I was really ready to be a mom.... I had one more thing I wanted to do [in life], and that was have a baby and raise him. It's been surprisingly easy. His dad feels like he's changed his life more than I do. Putting your needs on hold for a while is restricting in some ways, but it's an exciting challenge, too. And now that Miles is mobile and walking, he and his dad are developing a very close bond."

Wengenroth, who has a master's degree in recreation administration, has returned to work part-time as a surgical technologist at Kaiser. But her schedule leaves her plenty of time with Miles snug-



Miles Wittig of 24th Street is a sporty guy who celebrated his first birthday on July 21.



A weary Midnight was reunited with her playmates Walter and Clara Cardillo after some kind neighbors on Duncan Street spotted her under their carport deck.

gled next to her as she drinks her morning coffee in their 24th Street home.

Hats off to the home-building volunteers from the Noe Valley Ministry. They have joined approximately 70 Bay Area congregations to help finance and build San Francisco's first Interfaith Habitat House through Habitat for Humanity. The Ministry signed on to the project last summer and has donated \$1,000 to the effort so far.

On Sept. 14, church members will participate in their second workday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the construction site on Campbell Avenue in Visitacion Valley. Their first workday several months ago consisted primarily of demolishing a cobblestone retaining wall with jackhammers. Let's hope they get to pound a few nails this time. If your congregation, temple, or other group wants to get involved, call Tim Veeck, Interfaith's San Francisco coordinator, at 406-1555, ext. 105.

Speaking of getting involved, what would you do if one of your friends was being attacked by a group of gang members wielding a baseball bat? The youth mentioned in this month's Police Beat on page 15 says he jumped into the fray and tried to help. He didn't know someone in the group was carrying a knife.

"It went in below my left armpit, cut one of my ribs in half, and cut my liver," he said while recuperating from his home near Upper Noe Recreation Center, where the stabbing occurred on July 26. "I regret going out there, but then I don't regret it, because my friend is okay, so I guess I can just move on with my life," added the 17-year-old, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The good news is that he is expected to recover fully and is looking forward to returning to his part-time job at a camera shop. And many people who have known him since he was a winsome toddler playing in the sand wish him well. Perhaps one day he'll be a photographer.

It helps to know a photographer. Noe Valley resident John Calder's friend Maggie Hallahan is a very successful photographer, and she instigated the Calders being the poster family for this year's Bay to Breakers race in May. In the picture, Calder stands with his daughter Katie, who is now a sophomore in filmmaking at SOTA (School of the Arts); son Seamus, an eighth-grader at Rooftop and an actor in ACT; and son Conor, who just started fourth grade at Alvarado School.

"Anytime Maggie needs a cute family, she calls on me," says John Calder. "We were on 350 bus stops and Muni stations all over the city. This was fun. Conor had a fieldtrip at the time. They took the trolley, and the class got off right in front of

an eight-foot-by-six-foot version of the poster. Conor was deemed the 'coolest third-grader ever' by his class."

A different sort of poster that appeared in the neighborhood in July was a picture of **Midnight**, the Cardillo family's chow/labrador retriever mix. On Wednesday, July 10, she wandered away from their Sanchez Street home, and **Ruth Cardillo** and her two children, 9-year-old **Clara** and 6-year-old **Walter**, were panic-stricken. But then they got busy scouring the neighborhood, making phone calls, and sending e-mails to get the word out that Midnight was missing.

"She is so attached to us, she never strays, and when our friends and neighbors heard she was gone, everybody was shocked," says Cardillo. "A day went by and then another. By Friday there was no indication she was going to be found. At about 10:45 that night, I'd just been thinking about her and coming to grips with the fact that I might never see her again, when the doorbell rang and there was Midnight, standing at the door with a couple who live on Duncan Street. It turns out their dog had been intermittently barking at something in their yard for the past two days. They thought it was a raccoon. On Friday night, since they were about to leave for a trip to Europe the next morning, they decided to investigate the barking further while taking the garbage out. They found Midnight under a little deck attached to their carport."

Clara had recently insisted that Midnight have a tag with their phone number on it. The Good Samaritans tried phoning, but they got a busy signal. They got the Cardillos' address from a flyer posted near their house, and decided to just walk Midnight right over.

Midnight's been nestled in with the rest of the family's menagerie — four hamsters, two bearded dragons, six or seven fish, and a cat named **Franny** — ever since. And Midnight's family is extremely grateful to everyone who helped them look for and find their missing dog.

We're extremely grateful to everyone who shared news with us this month. Do you have any interesting stories for October? Were you kissed by a werewolf, chased by a ghost? If not, send us the milestones you do have: charming babies, academic honors, athletic achievements, engagements, weddings, professional awards, book publishing parties, art show openings, literary salons, and any other good personal news worth sharing with your neighbors.

E-mail leads to thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com, mail them to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or leave a phone message at 821-3324. Again, we eagerly await your news. □

WALK WITH US

NAME: The Calders
AGE: 9/12/14/16
NEIGHBORHOOD: Noe Valley

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The Examiner KGO 1080 BAY TO BREAKERS

You may recognize the Calder kids—(l. to r.) Katie, Conor, and Seamus—and their dad John, since they were the poster family for this year's Bay to Breakers. Photo by Maggie Hallahan

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SHORT TAKES

Friends Book the Library

Debra Niemann and Jeannene Przyblyski, co-chairs of the Friends of Noe Valley's Library Committee, sowed seeds last spring that are about to bear fruit. You can't eat it, but you can evaluate and refine the harvest at a meeting hosted by the San Francisco Public Library from 9:30 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library.

Niemann and Przyblyski will share the results of a survey they spearheaded to find out what renovations local library patrons want for our neighborhood branch. Funding for the renovations was approved in November 2000 through passage of Proposition A, a \$106 million bond measure specifically allocated to branch library improvements.

"We received over 550 survey responses," enthuses Niemann. "The results are in, and we'd like to present them to the community, as well as get further input. We purposefully scheduled the meeting on a Saturday morning to get more families with children to attend and voice their desires and concerns."

Also expected to attend are City Librarian Susan Hildreth; Donna Corbeil, chief of branches; and Roberta Greifer, head librarian for the Noe Valley branch. Some childcare will be provided, and light refreshments will be served.

The Noe Valley Library is at 451 Jersey Street. For further information about the meeting, call 282-4334. For questions about childcare, call 282-9918.

Note that after the meeting there's another event: a library garden tour led by experts from the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners. "Open Garden Day," celebrating 22 years of gardening at the Noe Valley Library, starts at 11 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. For the complete scoop, call Eleonore Gerhardt at 826-0522.

One Hip Fair

On Oct. 6, why not converge with thousands of fun-loving folks at Castro and Market streets for the 29th annual Castro Street Fair? From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., there will be crafts, food, music, dance, people-watching—Castro-style—and the opportunity to support a bunch of good causes.

"As people enter the fair from various directions, they are asked for a \$3 donation which is later divided up among local nonprofits," notes Michael Crawford of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association (EVPA). Patrons who donate receive a sticker that is good for \$1 off on beer and water at the fair's beverage booths.

Last year's fair was the most successful to date, netting over \$50,000. It was distributed to organizations important to the Castro community, including the AIDS Emergency Fund, Dolores Street Community Services, Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, Inter-Generational Project, Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco, McKinley Elementary School, and Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group. For more information, log on to www.castrostreetfair.org.

Join the Pack!

PAWS and Pets Unlimited are having a joint fundraiser, the Doggone Fun Run, on Sunday, Sept. 22, at Speedway Meadow in Golden Gate Park (Kennedy Drive near 25th Avenue).

PAWS—short for Pets Are Wonderful Support—has operated a pet supplies outlet at Bethany Church on Sanchez Street for years. The organization currently has

400 volunteers who help 375 low-income people living with AIDS and other illnesses hold on to their companion animals.

"Our volunteers do everything — pet food delivery to the homebound, dog walking, cat care, foster care, and grooming," says Erin Farrell, PAWS' executive director. "They also do new client intakes, reception, and office work." PAWS' partner in this event, Pets Unlimited, is the largest veterinary hospital in San Francisco. "It's open 24/7, and serves as a temporary shelter to over 80 companion animals in need of homes," says Farrell.

Talk-show host and fitness expert Joanie Greggains will host the run, which will feature the usual stupid pet tricks and dog look-alike contests. Festivities and registration begin at 9 a.m.; the run starts at 10 a.m.; the fun lasts until 1 p.m.

If you don't have a pooch, PAWS can provide one. If you want to join a pack, stop in and see Lee Bender at Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th Street. She's organizing a team from the neighborhood.

For more info, visit www.pawssf.org. For questions or to donate pet chow or cat litter, call 241-1460.

Those Were the Days

Come celebrate local history at "Memories of Noe Valley," this year's rendition of Noe Valley History Day. Held on Sept. 14, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library, the event will feature photographs, videos, artifacts, and a chance to gab with folks who lived here when 24th Street had a movie theater and a streetcar ran along Castro Street.

"We have marvelous photos, including the rock quarry that used to be where Douglass Park is now and the school that was located at what is now Noe Courts," says Paul Kantus, 76-year-old president of the East & West of Castro Club and keeper of the library's historical archives.

"We'll be running videotapes from our archives. One is of a lady who grew up in Noe Valley and was 17 during the 1906 earthquake. She reminisces about that day and how all the businesses on 24th Street helped out during the quake. We also have old movie posters and even a set of dishes from the Castro Theater when they used to do ladies' dish night during the 1930s," he adds.

The day also includes free refreshments, a 2 p.m. magic show called "Mystic Reality," and a film by and about Noe Valley resident Ruth Asawa, co-founder of the Alvarado Arts Program. The library is at 451 Jersey Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. If you can't make it on the 14th, photos and artifacts will be on display throughout the month of September during regular library hours.

City College Knowledge

Did you know that City College of San Francisco offers classes and seminars for adults at James Lick Middle School and that some of them are non-credit, open enrollment, and tuition-free?

Something apropos in our sluggish economy is a set of career counseling seminars by Dr. Kathleen Mitchell held in Room 102 on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Creating Career Curiosity will be Sept. 10; Breaking Free of Career Myths will be Oct. 1, and Putting Purpose in Your Work will be Nov. 12. For more information, call 452-5193.

For the relationship-minded, Codependency and Relationships may fit the bill. This class is taught by Dr. Beverly Wells and covers such things as boundary blurring in relationships and "shame-based defensive patterns." It meets on Mondays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 9 through Oct. 28. To preregister, call 585-5212.

James Lick is located at 1220 Noe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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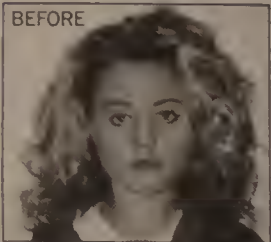
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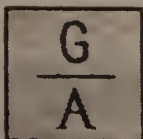
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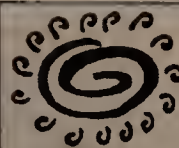


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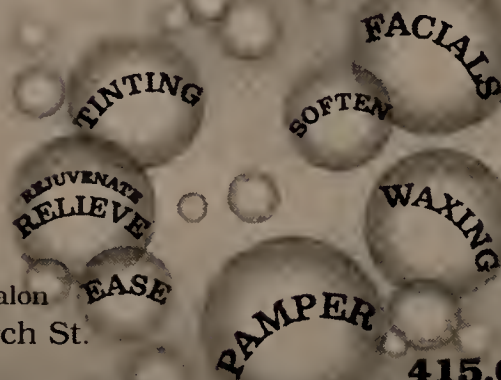
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On the one year anniversary of the September 11 tragedy, the San Francisco Symphony will perform a free concert in the tranquil outdoor setting of Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco. Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas will lead the Orchestra in a program of classic works by American composers, including Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings* and Aaron Copland's stirring *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Acclaimed Grammy-winning violinist Joshua Bell joins the San Francisco Symphony performing classic music by Leonard Bernstein - "New York, New York" from *On the Town* and "Make Our Garden Grow" from *Candide*. The program closes with Copland's majestic *Lincoln Portrait*, narrated by minister and community leader Cecil Williams.

Seating is very limited. Please bring a blanket or low beach chair. No pets allowed.

This concert is part of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival.

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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Street, at 25th Street. Registration for most of the other low-cost or free classes that meet there took place in August. For information about classes that are receptive to late enrollment, call 239-3127. If you join a class, the school's neighbors would appreciate it if you would walk, ride a bike, or take public transportation.

Here's to Your Health

St. Luke's Hospital will sponsor two free health classes this month. The first, Combating Weight Problems in Children,

will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14. Dr. Abha Goel and nutritionist Samiya Lewis will describe the consequences of poor nutrition and lack of physical activity for children and address how to help kids maintain a healthy weight.

The second class, Understanding Alternative Medicine, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 28. Claudia McGregor, executive director of the Integrative Center for Culture and Healing (located next door to the hospital), will provide an overview of what alternative medicine is and explain how it can be integrated into conventional western medicine.

Each class runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon at St. Luke's Hospital, 3555 Cesar Chavez Street. Preregistration is required. To register call 641-6465.

This month's Short Takes were written by Laura McHale Holland.

A Sampling of Fall Classes for Kids

This fall, there are many great classes and workshops nearby for young people. Some are old standbys, and some are new kids on the block. Here are several possibilities that just might entice the youngsters in your life away from the TV, the computer screen, and the Doritos.

Send 'Em to the Pirates

A hangout in the Mission known by its street address, 826 Valencia, captures kids' attention with pirate paraphernalia and then sets their imaginations free with classes in creative writing, college prep, and English as a second language.

Founded by best-selling author Dave Eggers (*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*), directed by former high school teacher Ninive Calegari, and aided by hundreds of topnotch professionals who volunteer their time, 826 Valencia offers students, ages 8 to 18, free drop-in tutoring Monday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 3:30 p.m.

The storefront also gives free workshops, some of which meet regularly. Here's a taste of what's in store this fall: Writing for Your Pet, College Entrance Essay Course, Comic Book Writing, Writing and Producing Nonfiction Films, SAT Prep, and Cutting the Cheese: A Short Course in Cultural Specificity. Other classes help kids Tell It Like It Is, Write a Play and Practice Acting, as well as do Broadcast Journalism, Advanced Video Production, and Creative Handmade Card Projects for the Holidays.

In addition, 826 Valencia hosts fieldtrips. A few of the more popular ones are Storytelling and Bookmaking, where a class collaborates to create and publish a story; Meeting Authors, where an author gives a short presentation and then answers student questions; and Software Introductions, where students become acquainted with widely used programs such as QuarkXPress, Photoshop, iMovie, Illustrator, and HTML.

For more info, drop by 826 Valencia (near 19th Street), e-mail ninive@826-valencia.com, or call 642-5778.

Get 'Em Jumpin'

The youth dance program at 24th Street's Dance Mission Theater offers children ages 3 to 13 a range of classes taught by professional dancers and teachers. Classes are held weekday afternoons (except for Thursdays) and on Saturdays. Styles include creative movement for the preschool set, and ballet, tap, hip-hop, and jazz dance for older children.

The program's fall session runs from Sept. 9 through Dec. 18, and culminates in a performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet Dec. 19 through 21. Preregistration day is Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Classes range from \$9 to \$12 apiece, depending on when you register and how many classes you purchase. There's a 10

percent discount for a second child or a second class series. Discounts for low-income families may be available.

Dance Mission Theater is located at 3316 24th Street, at Mission Street. For more information, call 826-4441 or visit www.dancemission.com.

Get Their Hands Workin'

From Oct. 8 through the end of December, the Randall Museum is offering classes for kids and adults in science, ceramics, photography, and woodworking.

There's also plenty of opportunity to volunteer at this animal haven, where generations of urban children have touched a rabbit, fed a chicken, or ambled in the grass after a tortoise. In the Animal Care Class, teens 13 to 17 learn how to care for the museum's animals.

The ceramics studio is also open again after being closed for an outdoor renovation project. Class offerings include the usual favorites such as Clay Magic, for parents and small children, and the Randall Clay Club for youths. In addition, there will be raku kiln classes for all ages in the museum's new outdoor space.

The complete class schedule should be available in early September at www.randallmuseum.org. One class certain to generate interest is Telescope Making and Cosmology, for ages 12 and up, taught by famed astronomer John Dobson. Call 554-9600 to have a schedule mailed to you, or stop by the museum to pick one up at 199 Museum Way (at Roosevelt). Deadline for registration is Sept. 17.

Get 'Em Paintin' the World

Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center is a busy place this fall with classes for young people from 18 months to 19 years of age.

In the Kids Mural Project, children ages 5 to 10 will design and paint a mural. The class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Another class, the Kids Art Project, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m., gives children the opportunity to experiment with a variety of materials.

A toddlers' art class for children 18 months to 5 years old meets Monday through Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. On Tuesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., an Urban Youth Arts Program provides the space for students 11 to 19 to explore painting, drawing, airbrush, and mural art.

Classes are \$8 apiece, and scholarships are available. For a \$50 annual membership, a student receives 10 free art classes, a 20 percent discount on subsequent classes, a 10 percent discount on art materials, a free newsletter, and a free mural tour. Family memberships are also available.

Precita Eyes is at 348 Precita Avenue, near Folsom Street. For more information, call 285-2311 or visit the center's web site at www.precitaeyes.org.

—Laura McHale Holland



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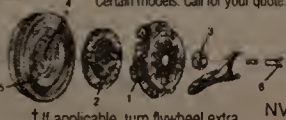
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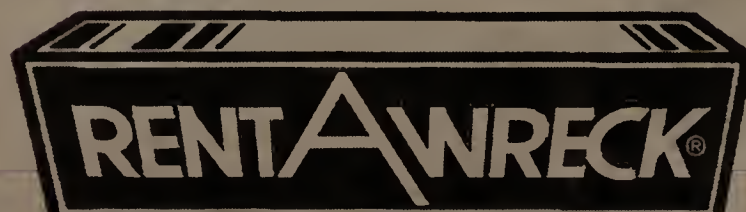


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SEPTEMBER 2002

AUG. 31: The first-ever GAMES NIGHT at the Noe Valley Ministry features Scrabble, charades, and Pictionary, among others, plus refreshments. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-7706 or 282-2317

AUG. 31-SEPT. 2: Noe Valley artist SARAH JANE HASSLER will be among the exhibitors at the Kings Mountain Art Fair. 10 am-5 pm. Kings Mountain Community Center, 13889 Skyline Blvd. 650-851-2710.

SEPT. 2-30: LIVING T'AI CHI of Noe Valley offers classes including meditation and Qigong, taught by Chris Sequeira. Mon. and Tues., 6-7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am-noon, at Douglass Park. 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

SEPT. 3-8, 12-15 & 24-29: RENO performs her one-woman show, "Rebel Without a Pause," a firsthand account of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. 8 pm. Brava! For Women in the Arts, 2789 24th St. 647-2822.

SEPT. 3, 10, 17 & 24: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 4: Conrad Susa discusses Richard Strauss' OPERA *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Noon. Main Library, Koret Auditorium 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

SEPT. 4-15: The FRINGE FESTIVAL includes Mercilee Jenkins' solo performance, *Menopause and Desire*, Sept. 12 to 14, 8:30 pm, at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 673-3847.

SEPT. 5: MUSICIAN Joyce Cauthen signs and reads from her book *With Fiddle and Well-Rosined Bow: A History of Old-Time Fiddling in America*; and the Alabama old-time string band Red Mountain White Trash performs. 7:30 pm. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

SEPT. 5: "CREATIVITY as a Spiritual Practice," an eight-week Thursday evening group, uses the arts for self-discovery. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Registration is required at 789-7376.

SEPT. 5 & 12: Come to an introductory SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE party on Sept. 5. Classes featuring jigs, reels, and strathspeys start on Sept. 12. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

SEPT. 5-OCT. 5: *Hairstory*, a MUSICAL REVUE "about people and their hair," combines gospel, soul, jazz, and pop music. Wed.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079

SEPT. 5-OCT. 13: Blue Room Gallery exhibits ARTWORK by Marilyn Rodriguez, Christopher Stout, and Paul Mahder. Reception, Sept. 5, 6-9 pm. 2331 Mission St. 282-8411.

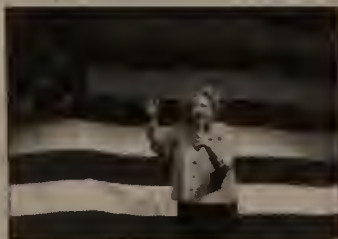
SEPT. 6 & 7: Fat Chance BELLY DANCE performs "Beledi, Rhythms of the Urban Village." Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sat. matinee, 2 pm. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. 431-4322.

SEPT. 7: LIFELINE Screening offers stroke, arterial disease, and osteoporosis screenings. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Registration is required at 1-800-407-4557.

SEPT. 7: The Randall Museum offers a ZEN ROCK GARDEN workshop from 1 to 4 pm. 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

SEPT. 7: An ORIGAMI CLUB for all ages at the Bernal Heights Library begins at 2 pm. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

SEPT. 7: The WRITING SALON's End-of-Summer-Session Potluck Party and Reading features "schmoozing and eating." 673 Moultrie St. 642-9793.



New York comedian Reno performs her solo show, "Rebel Without a Pause," at the Brava Theater Center Sept. 3 through 29.

SEPT. 7: An Eastern INDIAN MUSIC party at Club Galia features Bhangra/Hindi, hip-hop, and '70s and '80s American music. 9:30 pm. 2565 Mission St. 970-9777.

SEPT. 8: The Sisters of PERPETUAL INDULGENCE will be the focus of the monthly meeting of PFLAG support group. 2-3 pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

SEPT. 8: The second annual "Bar-beque by the Bay" to benefit Lyon-Martin WOMEN'S HEALTH services includes a silent auction, music, horseshoes, and volleyball. 2-6 pm. The Log Cabin in the Presidio. 565-7667.

SEPT. 11: St. Paul's Catholic Church holds an 8:30 am mass and a second PRAYER SERVICE at 11 am, in commemoration of Sept. 11, 2001. 221 Valley St. 648-7538.

SEPT. 11: The Church at San Francisco offers a spiritual tribute to those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, led by Pastor Joe Bell. 8:45 am. 1596 Church St. 642-0302.

SEPT. 11: "9/11: A Service of REMEMBRANCE" at Bethany United Methodist Church will be a time for somber reflection and worship. Noon. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

SEPT. 11: The San Francisco Symphony performs a free OUTDOOR CONCERT to commemorate the Sept. 11 anniversary, featuring music by Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber. 6 pm. Yerba Buena Gardens. 864-6000.

SEPT. 11: Rev. Rosa Lee Harden presides at a MEMORIAL EUCHARIST at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church. 6:30 pm. 455 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

SEPT. 11: The Noe Valley Ministry remembers the anniversary of the terrorist attacks with an OPEN WORSHIP SERVICE with live music, prayers, and readings. 7-9 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

SEPT. 11: A poetry reading for PEACE features Diane Di Prima, David Meltzer, and contrabassist Dartanyan Brown. 7 pm. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

SEPT. 11: The Congregation of Sha'ar Zahav holds an INTERFAITH MEMORIAL at 7 pm. 290 Dolores St. 861-6932.

SEPT. 11-DEC. 11: The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners' three-month gardening and composting EDUCATOR TRAINING program begins. Saturdays, 10 am-4 pm, and seven Wednesday night sessions. Apply by Sept. 4. 285-7584.

SEPT. 12: The topic at the general meeting of the FRIENDS of Noe Valley is board elections. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 821-4087.

SEPT. 12: FILMS for preschoolers ages 3 to 5 include *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*, *Let's Give Kitty a Bath*, and *Most Wonderful Egg*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 13-23: Liz Worthy exhibits CERAMICS at Ruby's Clay Studio. Reception, Sept. 14, 6-9 pm; open daily, 9:30 am-7 pm. 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

SEPT. 14: LAPSITS for babies, toddlers, and their parents feature songs, stories, and fingerplay. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 14: Noe Valley HISTORY DAY features a photo exhibit, chats with old-timers, a film recounting the 1906 earthquake, and a 2 pm circus arts and magic performance. 1-5 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 14: The MANRING/KASSIN/DARTER trio performs a concert to celebrate the release of their first CD, *Scatter*. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



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CALENDAR



SEPT. 15: "The War on Terrorism's War on CIVIL LIBERTIES" will be considered in an open discussion moderated by Rapdall Lyman, co-chair of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists. 4:30 pm. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

SEPT. 16: A YOGA FOR MENOPAUSE workshop offers practices to strengthen the body and calm the mind. 6–8 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

SEPT. 16: Rev. Gilbert Shaheen Al-Bazi, pastor of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church ministering to refugees in Basrah, IRAQ, speaks at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

SEPT. 17: The SF Lesbian/Gay FREEDOM BAND performs "When the Stars Begin to Fall," a concert in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. 8:15 pm. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

SEPT. 18: Consultant Susan Christy discusses "How to Say No and Deliver Bad News," in a UCSF Brown Bag Lecture. 12:10–1 pm. Health Sciences West, Room 300, 513 Parnassus Ave. 476-6547.

SEPT. 18: OPERA PICCOLA Small Works Theater Company performs *Chac the Rain Spirit: A Mayan Folk Tale*. 4 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

SEPT. 18: District 8 SUPERVISOR CANDIDATES will speak at the Noe Valley Democratic Club's general endorsement meeting for the upcoming elections. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

SEPT. 19: An ART AUCTION benefits the Coalition on Homelessness. Reception, 5:30 pm; auction, 7 pm. SomArts Gallery, 934 Brannan St. 346-3740.

SEPT. 19: The annual Autumn Magic DINNER AND DANCE GALA sponsored by On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center begins at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:30 and dancing to Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeño Band from 8 to 10:30 pm. La Union Española, 2850 Alemany Blvd. 292-8732.

SEPT. 20: A HARVEST MOON WALK at Strybing Arboretum explores the traditions of Japanese moon viewing; bring binoculars and flashlights. 7:15–9 pm. Meet at the Main Gate, Golden Gate Park. 661-1316, ext. 307.

SEPT. 20–22: "A Taste of GREECE" features traditional delicacies, live bouzouki music and dancing, and cultural exhibits. Fri. and Sat., 11 am–10 pm; Sun., noon–10 pm. Annunciation Cathedral, 245 Valencia St. 864-8000.

SEPT. 20–22: The San Francisco ALTERNATIVE ART Venues Showcase exhibits the work of 35 artists from galleries including Noe Art Space and Chatterbox. 6–11 pm. Fine Arts du Jour, 672 Valencia St. 370-1993.

SEPT. 20–22: Pau'fe Dance performs *In Exhale*, new and repertory DANCE works. 8 pm. Dance Mission Theater, 24th and Mission St. 273-4633.

SEPT. 21: A COMMUNITY MEETING sponsored by the S.F. Library and the Friends of Noe Valley discusses proposed improvements to the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library. 9:30–11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 21: The S.F. Bicycle Coalition hosts a BIKE TOUR of Golden Gate Park 11 am–1 pm. Meet at the McLaren Lodge at Fell and Stanyan. 431-BIKE.

SEPT. 21: OPEN GARDEN DAY at the Noe Valley Library celebrates 22 years of gardening at the site with a tour and refreshments on the deck. 11 am–4 pm. 451 Jersey St. 826-0522.



The Fat Chance Belly Dance troupe will shake up the Victoria Theater on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 6 and 7. Photo by Andy Moog

SEPT. 21: IVAN E. COYOTE reads from his books *Close to Spider Man* and *One Man's Trash* at 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 23: The STONESTOWN STROLLERS, cosponsored by Noe Valley Strollers, will cover a one-mile course, using the stroller for resistance to "help Mommy get back in shape." Weekly, beginning Monday, Sept. 23, 8:30–10 am. Meet at the Nordstrom Espresso Bar in Stonestown Galleria, 19th Ave. at Winston Drive. 759-2600.

SEPT. 23: The Odd Mondays series features a presentation by Soka Gakkai International, a NICHIREN BUDDHIST association. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

SEPT. 25: The Bernal Heights Book Groupies BOOK CLUB, for grades 6 through 8, will discuss Lemony Snicket's *The Hostile Hospital*. 3:30 pm. Bernal Heights Library. 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

SEPT. 26: UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meets at 7:30 pm, at the Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.

SEPT. 27: The first-ever CAR-FREE DAY, urged by the S.F. Bicycle Coalition, will close Montgomery Street to cars between 10 am and 2 pm. 431-BIKE.

SEPT. 27: "Tuning to the COSMIC SOUND" involves chanting the sacred mantram *Om Hreem Namah Shivaya*, to bring out the universal vibration. 7:30–9:45 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

SEPT. 28: Claudia McGregor gives an overview of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE at St. Luke's Hospital. 10:30–noon. Solarium Room, Cesar Chavez and Valencia. Preregistration required at 641-6465.

SEPT. 28: "Changing Perceptions of TIME" will be discussed by Marita Grudzen from the Stanford Geriatric Center, at the meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am–12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location and information.

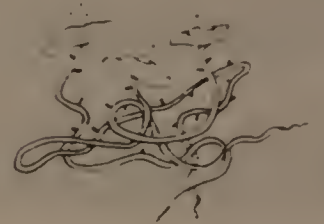
Having an October Fest at Your Nest?

Publicize it here! The next edition of the *Voice* will be out on the street on or before Oct. 1, 2002. Please make sure we hear about your calendar event by **Sept. 15**. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may e-mail calendar items to zabarska@aol.com.

SEPT. 29: The annual Friends of Noe Valley POTLUCK PICNIC introduces new officers and board members; bring a dish to share. Noon–3 pm. Noe Valley Library. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 29: Film clips, live music, and a raffle are featured at a fundraiser for completion of the film *The WILD PARROTS of Telegraph Hill*. 2:45–5:15 pm. Moose's Restaurant, 1652 Stockton St. 441-0503.

OCT. 5: Rocket DOG RESCUE's first annual "Big Bark in Dolores Park" features folk and blues, food, and adoptable dogs. 1–5 pm. Dolores between 19th and 20th. 642-4786.



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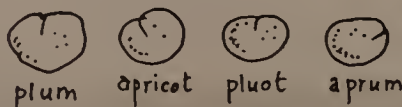
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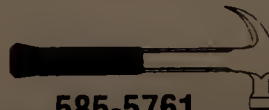
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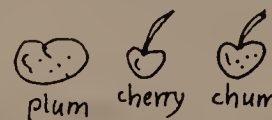
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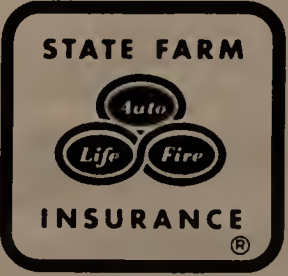
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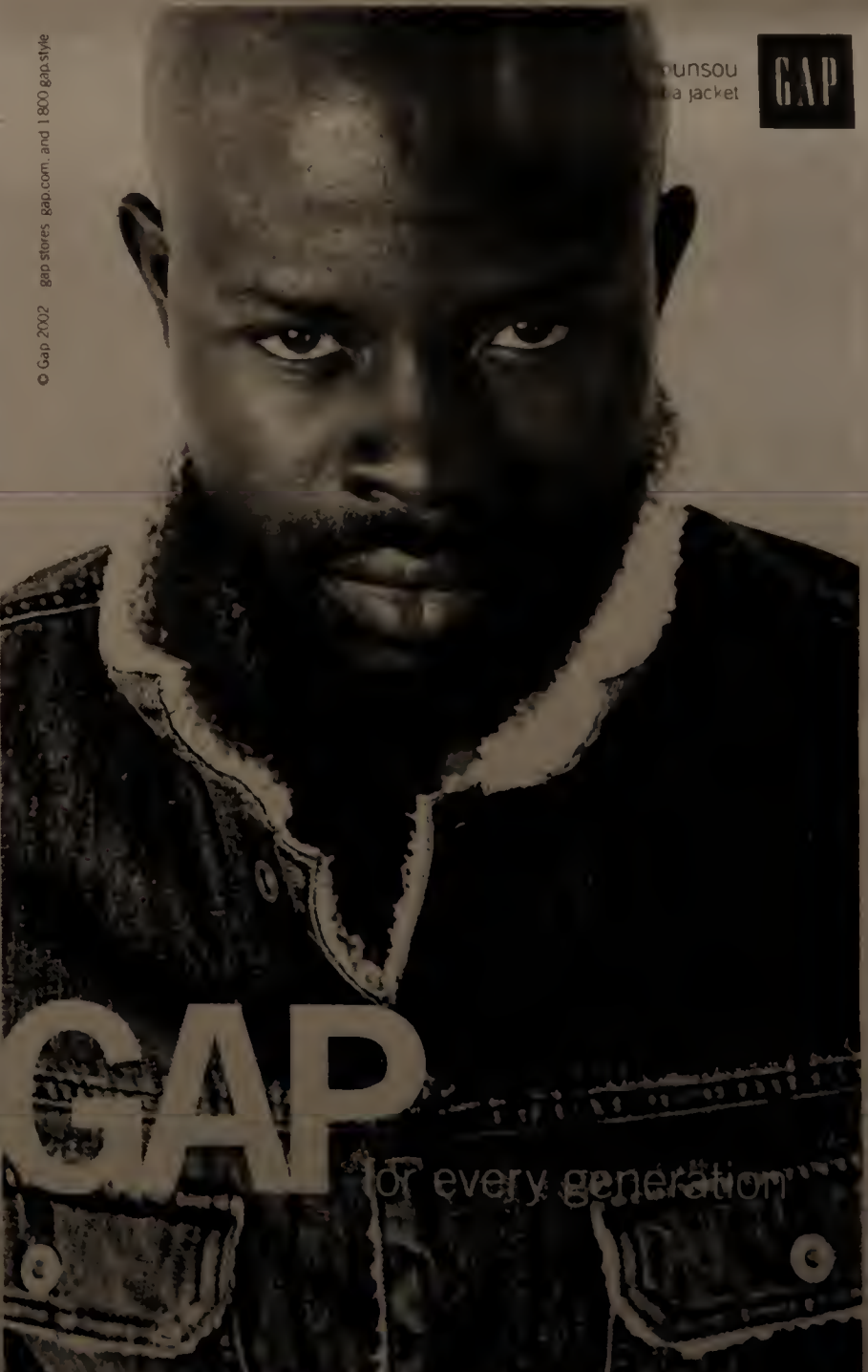
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Part-Time Is Plenty

By Erin O'Briant

I just went part-time, and I'm never going back. Thirty hours a week, I've discovered, is enough for me.

After a few years as a fulltime journalist and several nightmarish months as a receptionist in the East Bay (welcome to the Recession), I needed a break. I wanted to read more and stress less. I wanted to see daylight on a weekday. I wanted more than six hours of sleep a night.

I knew there had to be a way to work less. I got rid of my car, bought a bicycle, stocked up on Ramen noodles, and found a part-time job a short bike ride from my home. (Though I'm a former Noe Valley resident, I'm currently living in Bernal Heights—or as I like to call it, Outer Noe Valley.)

Now I'm working a few hours a day, writing my choice of stories, editing



Terra Mia employee Elaine Climpson (center) agrees with writer Erin O'Briant that part-time life is sublime, especially when you can assist artists like 9-year-old Jonathan Lee and his mom, Dorothy Pang, in making pottery creations for Jonathan's dad. Photos by Sally Smith

some copy here and there, and feeling more relaxed than I've felt since puberty. I no longer cringe at the sight of my alarm clock. I read, on average, a book or two a week. I do have to monitor my bank balance pretty closely, but it's a small price to pay for my sanity.

Plenty of folks in Noe Valley are doing the same. They work anywhere from 8 to 30 hours per week for a variety of reasons. As I strolled the neighborhood searching for fellow part-timers, I met students, retirees, homemakers, writers—and one fellow who says he's just plain lazy.

Maybe he is, and some would surely say I am, too. But I have a different take on it: I think the 40 or 50 hours most full-time jobs demand is just too much. Add travel time and mandatory unpaid lunch break (or working lunch) on top of that, and the average on-site job can consume 11 hours a day or more. No wonder people are worn out by Friday afternoon.

"I haven't found any disadvantages [to working part-time] yet," says David Marra, a City College student and former programmer who works a few hours a week at both Cover to Cover Booksellers and Workwear, a Noe Valley clothing store. Marra says he particularly likes working for local, independent stores.

"I've worked for other retail places, like Borders, and it was a big, hectic

company," he adds. "It's really nice and peaceful in Noe Valley."

Marra used to live in the neighborhood, too, but now resides in the Richmond District.

Meanwhile, another bookstore employee enjoys job sharing so she can spend time with her grandchildren in Michigan. Suzanne Schneider Ross has been working at Phoenix Books and Records for three years and job sharing with a co-worker for the past nine months. They trade off working 24 to 30 hours a week in two-month stretches.

"I'm fortunate to have a boss who does something like this," says Ross. "I get to have a job I love and visit family I love. It's the best of both worlds."

Though she lives in North Beach, she enjoys working in Noe Valley. "We have a very nice clientele from Noe Valley and other areas," Ross explains.

Designers' Club sales associate Gale Trent says working part-time—around 24 hours a week—gives her "time to breathe." She has a great boss and knows her regular customers, so the 24th Street clothing store is a pleasant environment for her. Of course, finances are one major reason people work full-time, and Trent admits it would be hard to make ends meet working so few hours without her husband's support.

Lack of a partner's paycheck doesn't stop Aveda's Ryan George from keeping a part-time schedule. "I'm con-

stantly struggling [financially]," says the 26-year-old. "I'm always selling my things on eBay to make ends meet, but I like my free time." He's been working at Aveda for a couple of years, and recently transferred to Noe Valley from an Aveda store in the East Bay. He loves the new location. "Everybody is so friendly, especially compared to Los Angeles," notes the former Southern California resident.

Noe Valley is a great place to work, agrees Elaine Climpson, a retired attorney who loves her part-time job at Terra Mia ceramics studio on Castro Street. She helps kids and adults glaze all sorts of pottery, and has learned quite a bit about the art of ceramics herself. "If I had my druthers, I'd never leave," says Climpson, who lives in Noe Valley on Chattanooga Street.

She has lots of flexibility, and can travel for a few weeks at a time or pick up extra shifts if she wants to work more. Compared to her full-time career as an attorney, says Climpson, it's "like night and day.... [Terra Mia] is just such a fun place."

I agree—the difference between working full- and part-time is dramatic. My paychecks were once much larger than they are now. Two years ago I lived alone; today I share a flat with two roommates. Until recently, my wheels were powered by an internal-combustion engine, rather than my own two legs. I used to buy clothes that weren't on the sale rack. I had a cell phone.

I wouldn't trade any of it for the hours I now spend roaming Dolores Park or composing haiku. Someday I may have to return to the full-time grind, but for now, part-time is plenty. □

In addition to being a frequent contributor to the Voice, Erin O'Briant is a local spoken word performer. You can catch her act at ForWord Girls on Sept. 28 (www.forwordgirls.com).

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The Noe Valley Voice would like to publish your reflections on life in and around the neighborhood. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail your essay to bylines@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number.



On her survey of 24th Street, Erin O'Briant found a number of part-timers who, like her, were all-smiles about working shorter shifts.

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by Florence Holub

Ode to Some Bygone Silver Screens

Editor's Note: This fond recollection of the movie theaters of Noe Valley was originally printed in the October 1989 issue of the Noe Valley Voice. It is among the hundreds of columns written over a 20-year span by Florence Holub, who lives with her husband, well-known photographer Leo Holub, on 21st Street. If by chance you are a newcomer to Florence's Family Album, you also should know that her mother, Lena Mickelson, died of cancer in 1938, when Florence was just 19.

As we sit comfortably in our homes watching movies on the TV screen, I can't help but remember the early days and imagine how my mother would have enjoyed television had she lived longer, for her greatest pleasure was a family outing at the movies. The silent black-and-white films of the 1920s were short and amateurish (compared to today's standards), with black specks and threads that wiggled distractingly on the screen. However, they were new and exciting, often hilariously funny, and extremely popular.

To meet the huge demand, movie houses sprang up all over, and a succession of theaters thrived on 24th Street, starting with the Nickelodeon in 1915 (before my time), followed by two more silent movie theaters—the Acme at 24th and Castro, and the Vicksburg on

24th between Vicksburg and Church.

During the Roaring Twenties, my brother and I would walk over to the tiny Glen Park Theater (actually a converted store, with seats and screen added) for the children's matinee, which cost us 10 cents apiece. Usually it was a cowboy western followed by a cliff-hanger serial—which assured our return the following week.

Although the films were silent, with captions that passed too quickly for us little kids to figure out, we always knew who the heroes were, because a person who'd been hired to play the piano played high notes when the good guys appeared and low notes when the bad guys hit the screen.

One Saturday, we brought along Roy, a 5-year-old neighbor boy who had never been to the movies before. He sat wide-eyed and motionless as the stagecoach came bouncing toward us and the

Theater, on 24th between Sanchez and Noe [where Just for Fun is now], had opened their doors. And I recall several other movie houses situated in southern Noe Valley. The small Rita, located in the building that today houses the Holiness Temple of Christ at 28th and Church streets [now the Church in San Francisco], featured German films, and was later renamed the Del Mar, switching to American movies and Saturday cartoon festivals for children. Another, the Lyceum, was a much larger modern theater located a few doors from 30th Street on Mission, where Safeway's parking lot now stands.

I remember vividly a landmark film from the early '30s titled *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* and starring Sylvia Sydney. Gloriously beautiful, it was the first movie to be photographed out-of-doors and in Technicolor, a proc-



Illustration by Florence Holub

horses' hooves pounded to a closeup. Then he ducked under his seat in terror, to keep from being trampled. Although my brothers and I invited him, Roy never accompanied us to a movie again.

In the late 1920s, our family saw *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson—the first all-talking film. The "movies" then became known as the "talkies."

By the mid-1930s, the Palmer Theater, on 24th between Noe and Castro [where Rite Aid is now], and the Noe

ess introduced just a few years earlier.

Sound, color, and the rise of movie "stars" all combined to usher in Hollywood's Golden Age. As audiences grew, sumptuous movie palaces were erected, and the grandest in the Mission District was El Capitan, located on Mission near 20th, where people waited for hours to be admitted. I remember getting in line at the corner of 20th Street to buy a ticket at the box office, then waiting inside the entrance, through the

lobby, up the broad stairs, and across the balcony, until we were led to our seats by one of many pretty, uniformed usherettes.

In addition to the featured film, there would be a Pathé newsreel, a cartoon, and a live stage show, with Jay Brower and his big band playing the popular songs of the day. It was an enormous, luxurious theater, but the combination of plush seats and red-blooded patrons attracted tiny carnivorous fleas, and I can remember going home scratching! Today, El Capitan's gutted skeleton still stands, but it houses only a parking lot.

The greatest, most elegant theater of them all, the Fox, was erected on Market near Polk Street. We three growing children were first taken there as a reward for good report cards by our happy parents. We had to wait until an earlier show let out, but the time spent in the lobby was pleasurable because of the extravagant decor—thick red carpeting, brass handrails on the stairway, lots of gold leaf, finely carved mahogany woodwork, and walls and ceilings covered with oil paintings of cavorting nymphs in flowing drapery and garlands of flowers.

Eventually we were seated, to see a cowboy movie that did not merit such an elegant setting. But 10 years later, my man-to-be, Leo Holub, took me there to see *Gone with the Wind*, the most celebrated film of all time and worthy of the ambiance.

Sadly, the Fox was later demolished, over great protest, and replaced by a highrise. As the newsreel commentator used to say, "Time marches on!"

In 1938, 65 percent of the population attended the movies, but with the popularity of television, only 10 percent went in 1968. Today the movies are still with us, but more than ever we choose to watch them in the privacy of our homes, where with the help of cable TV and VCRs we can see a broad range of films—classic or current—at the flick of a remote control. My mother would have loved it!

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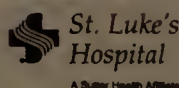
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Hong Kong Without the Jet Lag

Visiting the Chinatown Night Market

By Janis Cooke Newman

Two ladies in glittery sequined blouses are singing high-pitched arias in Cantonese, reading the words off a karaoke machine. Watching them from the edge of the stage is a woman whose black-haired baby is tied to her back with a cloth printed with dragons. Beside the mother stands a group of jostling teenage boys, martial arts students still dressed in the ruffled satin pants that make up their Lion dancing costumes. At a small table nearby, a man in a porkpie hat is reading the palm of an elderly lady wearing a padded jacket made of Chinese silk. Across the way is a stand filled with lime-green and lavender tassels meant to bring good fortune. The rows of colorful tassels flutter in a breeze that smells of pork buns and curried fish balls.

These could easily be the sights, sounds, and smells of the Temple Street night markets in Hong Kong. But they're not. Instead, the booths crowded with jade Buddhas and \$10 Rolexes, Hello Kitty lunchboxes, and soapstone animals from Chinese astrology are lined up in the center of Portsmouth Square, at the corner of Kearny and Washington streets in San Francisco.

This is the Chinatown Night Market, which was started three years ago by the Chinatown Neighborhood Association to encourage residents and tourists to visit Chinatown at night. When I first read about the night market, I realized that I'd rarely ventured past North Beach after dark myself, and wondered what nighttime on the other side of Broadway was like. What I hadn't expected was a slice of Hong Kong a

couple of Muni stops away.

My son Alex, however, is less impressed.

"This singing is horrible," he says, covering his ears. It is perhaps too much to expect a 7-year-old to develop a true appreciation for Chinese opera. "I want to go buy something."

Buying something is Alex's main motivation for being here. And as I look around at the stands overflowing with Spider-Man T-shirts, iguana pencils with retractable tongues, and tiny bare-chested Bruce Lee figurines, I'm sure he'll have no trouble spending his allowance. My husband and I are tougher customers, however.

"How about this?" says my husband, holding up a futuristic eye mask made out of metal. "Wisdom Eyes Massager," he reads from the box. "Make our sight world be clearer."

"Very practical," I say. "But how can you pass this up?" I show him a live-action painting of a waterfall that comes complete with the sound effects of running water and birds chirping.

Alex, meanwhile, has moved on to a collection of tabletop fountains, one of which features a water-spitting hippo.

We push through the throng of people shouting to each other in Mandarin and Cantonese, past booths selling bolts of Chinese silk and packages of underwear, Tweety Bird key chains, and mahjong tiles. At a table where the sign reads, "Any English name in Chinese calligraphy for \$4," two men with raised paintbrushes argue about the correct translation of the name "Mock." A little farther along, we find a booth that sells CDs of Chinese pop tunes and videotapes of couples ballroom dancing.

We stop at a quintet of people playing music on traditional Chinese instruments—a wooden flute, a kind of dulcimer played with flat-edged mallets, a two-stringed Chinese violin, and something that resembles a mandolin with wings. Nearby, a group of men are huddled around a board covered with potsticker-sized wooden checkers, excitedly debating the outcome of the game.

At the Lollicup Café stand, we buy "Refreshing Pearl Tea," which comes with a straw thick enough to suck up the large pearls of tapioca floating in the milky liquid.

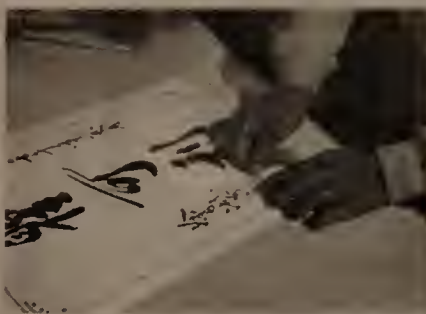
"How do you like it?" I ask Alex.

"It's okay," he says. "But the round things feel like eyeballs."



A budding opera star gets her first look in the mirror after a makeover at the Chinatown Night Market.

Photos by Ken Newman



Street artists will write your name or logo in Chinese calligraphy for \$4.

We linger at a booth filled with elaborate wigs and embroidered gowns, and watch as a little girl is transformed into a character from the Cantonese opera. Her long hair has been pulled back and her small face covered with pink and white makeup. The little girl shuts her eyes, and a woman in a smock draws two arching black eyebrows on her forehead that resemble spider legs.

Near a stand selling sneakers with retractable wheels in their soles, my husband is sidetracked by a watch whose face is decorated with a waving figure of Chairman Mao.

"Look!" says my husband, dancing around in front of the booth. "His arm is the second hand!"

The watch is \$15, and the vendor will not bargain. "It's very special," he tells my husband, who nods in agreement.

A couple of minutes later, my husband is wearing the waving Mao watch on his wrist.

"I guess you found something after all," I start to say, when I spy a table piled with small Chinese silk purses the perfect size for holding a lipstick, some money, and the car keys.

"How much is this?" I ask, holding up a black and red purse.

"Eight dollars," says the man behind the table.

I bargain him down to six, and then buy a second purse of gold silk.

On our way out, we pass by the karaoke stage. The two ladies in the glittery blouses have been replaced by a younger woman in white go-go boots and a Marlo Thomas hairdo. The younger woman is singing a Britney Spears-type love song in Chinese and displaying an impressive mastery of microphone technique. I listen, feeling once again as if I'm standing on a street in Hong Kong.

"I'm tired," says Alex, tugging my sleeve.

Twenty minutes later, we're back in Noe Valley. □

Janis Cooke Newman's memoir, *The Russian Word for Snow*, is available in paperback from St. Martin's Press.

Planning Your Jet Lag Free Trip to the Chinatown Night Market

The Chinatown Night Market runs until Nov. 9. It's held every Saturday night from 6 to 11 p.m., in Portsmouth Square at the corner of Kearny and Washington streets. Lion dancers generally open the market at 6; shortly afterward, the karaoke machine is turned on. If you visit the night market, you can get up to two hours of free parking at either the Portsmouth Square or the St. Mary's Garage. Parking validations are available at participating merchants, and a minimum purchase is required.

Dim sum is about all that's available to eat at the night market. So, if you're looking for a bigger meal, try the **Oriental Pearl Restaurant**, which is at 760-778 Clay Street, a short walk away. The restaurant gets very busy on Saturday nights, so call ahead to make reservations: 415-433-1817.



A challenging form of Chinese checkers attracts serious fans to Portsmouth Square on Saturday nights.

Photo by Ken Newman



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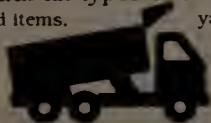
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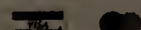


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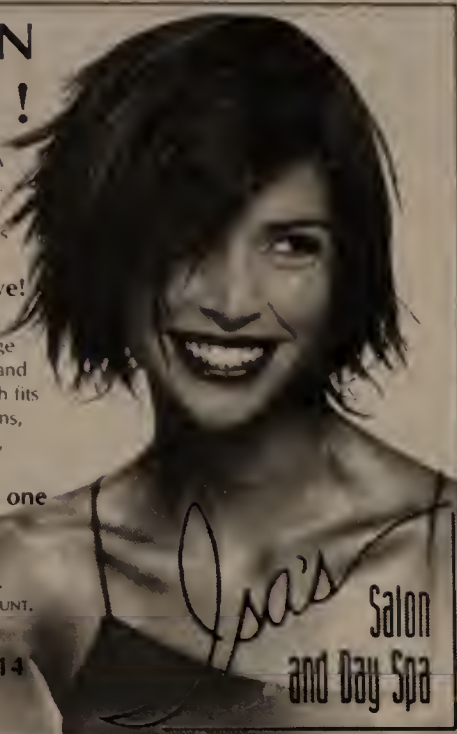
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BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new books list, selected by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small. Features Noe Valley author Andrea Alban Gosline's parenting journal, a military history of Afghanistan, and the story of Johnny Appleseed. To find out if books are available, call 695-5095 or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Besides books, the branch offers videos, DVDs, magazines, CDs, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also has periodicals such as the *New York Times*, a collection of books in Spanish, a large collection of nonfiction by women, and a special section devoted to college and career resources. Branch hours are Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adult Fiction

◆ In Ann Packer's debut novel *The Dive from Clausen's Pier*, a young woman falling out of love with her fiancé watches him suffer a paralyzing accident, then moves to New York City in a quest both to forgive and discover herself and to embark on a new career.

◆ In Evan Hunter's *The Moment She Was Gone*, we meet Andrew and his twin sister Annie, who has an odd habit of disappearing halfway around the world while her family confronts its secrets and denials.

◆ *Some of Her Friends That Year*, by Maxine Chernoff, chair of the Creative Writing Department at San Francisco State University, features short stories portraying the dark side of modern living.

◆ Set in America's heartland, *The Truth About Fire*, by Elizabeth Hartmann, is a thriller about a terrorist group called Sons of the Shepherd, which is preparing to unleash a biological weapon.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Afghanistan, A Military History*, by Stephen Tanner, is an accessible profile of the country's 2,500-year history of defying foreign powers—from Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan to the present day.

◆ In *Smart Boys: Talent, Manhood, and the Search for Meaning*, Barbara Kerr and Sanford Cohn explore the sometimes mixed blessings of having a gifted boy.

◆ *Little Moments of Peace*, by Noe Valley author and mother Andrea Alban Gosline, is a year-long reflective journal of child-rearing.

Children's Fiction

◆ In *Daisy's Hide-and-Seek*, a new "lift the flap" book by Jane Simmons, Daisy looks for baby duckling Pip and eventually finds him in the best possible place. *Ages 1 to 3.*

◆ Two pioneer children who love listening to stories learn about someone famous in *Johnny Appleseed: My Story*, by David L. Harrison, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka. *Ages 5 to 8.*

◆ An important connection to Windy Hill, N.Y., plus a strong interest in the Brooklyn Dodgers, cements Mariel and Brick's friendship, in *All the Way Home* by Patricia Reilly Giff. *Ages 10 and up.*

◆ Although Jack considers the kiss to be heavenly, his best friend Chris sees it quite differently, in *And Sometimes Why* by Mame Farrell. *Ages 10 and up.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ The origin of the Blackfoot tipi is lyrically explained in Paul Goble's *Storm Marker's Tipi*, enhanced with his own distinctive illustrations. *Ages 7 to 10.*

◆ Through stories, a play, a song, and a recipe, Kerene Marchant illustrates customs and beliefs related to major Islamic holidays, in *Muslim Festival Tales*. *Ages 5 to 9.*

◆ When their ship gets stuck in the Arctic ice, the scientists, hunters, crew, and children aboard have to be creative in order to survive, in *The Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish: Based on a True Story*, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, with illustrations by Beth Krommes. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ With *The Grapes of Math*, author Greg Tang and illustrator Harry Briggs show that you can use humorous poetry and flashy illustrations to sharpen your math skills. *Ages 7 to 10.*

Noe Valley Library Highlights

Noe Valley History Day

◆ The annual neighborhood *History Day* features a photo exhibit, videos, chats with oldtimers, and a 2 p.m. performance of circus arts and magic by Mystic Reality; 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Library Renovation—Find Out What Noe Valley Patrons Want

◆ The San Francisco Public Library, in conjunction with Friends of Noe Valley, will hold a meeting to discuss the results of a recent survey of local residents on their dreams for the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, an Andrew Carnegie building scheduled for renovation next year. Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Childcare will be available.

Open Garden Day

◆ Following the renovation meeting, visit the library garden, talk with gardeners from the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners, and enjoy refreshments on the library deck at *Open Garden Day*, celebrating 22 years of gardening at the Noe Valley Library. Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 can come hear stories read aloud at *preschool story time*, at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17, and 24.

September Films

◆ Preschoolers 3 to 5 are invited to watch *films*, including *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash* and *Let's Give Kitty a Bath*, at 10 and 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Family Lapsits

◆ The library's family *lapsits* offer stories, songs, and fingerplay for infants and toddlers at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14.



Adult book annotations were written by head librarian Roberta Greifer, and children's book annotations by children's librarian Carol Small. Unless otherwise noted, events are held at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey Street near Castro.

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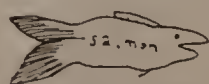
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HIV and Yoga. This drop-in Hatha Yoga class is for those whose lives have been touched by HIV (including family, friends, and caregivers). Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and an empty stomach. Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$9 (\$6 for first class or needing assistance). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Adriano Cleaning Services. Any and all old furniture, refrigerators, freezers, and general refuse. We are your friendly junk disposal guys! 415-990-4062.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans. Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream, woods, and meadow. Fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, ornamental fish pond. Dogs okay. Three-night weekend, \$500; stay up to four more nights for free. Additional nights after first seven are \$70 per night or four weeks at \$1,750. Discount given to repeat guests. 415-647-3052 (phone and fax).

I'll Drive You grocery shopping, doctor appointments, or other San Francisco errands. Personalized service (can help you shop, carry groceries, wait for you in doctor's office, etc.). Very dependable and friendly. Outstanding references. \$20 per hour (two-hour minimum). Please call Bill, 826-3613.

Tree Care. Pruning for fruit, shape, and overall good health of fruit trees, ornamentals, natives, and shrubs. Kevin, 775-2246.

Gentle Yoga for the Mind, Body, and Spirit. Simple stretches, yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques to gently stretch and strengthen the body. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., and Sundays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$9 (\$6 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133; www.pealcuisine.com.

Tutor Wanted at least three hours per week for 16-year-old, all subjects. \$12 per hour to start. Experience a plus, but not necessary if you enjoy teenagers and are patient, enthusiastic, and highly intelligent. Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to kmcreative@earthlink.net.

Hauling/Cleaning. Backyards and gardens, garages also. Kevin, 775-2246.

Make It What You Want! Interior Design—Have the home you always imaged for yourself. Color Consultant—Having trouble picking out those perfect colors for your home? Set up a consultation to get the color you want. Remodeling Project Manager—You don't have to worry about the contractor ripping down the wrong wall. I manage your contractors for you. Call 180° Design, Kathyjean Boise, 415-285-3014.

Proofreading/Copyediting by professional with 17 years of experience. Manuscripts, brochures, flyers, newsletters, academic papers, etc. Reasonable rates. Call My Editor at 415-492-1131.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents of friends coming, and no room? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, and antique furnishings. Near 24th Street, J-Church line. Oliver House, 415-695-0700. or oliverhouse.info.

PC/Mac/IMac Computer? Need Help? I can... help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I'm the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Done in your home. 642-8287.

Do You Need Housecleaning? We will do it. References. \$15 per hour. Call Jose and Sara, 415-643-1262.

Massage Office for Rent Thursday through Monday. Beautiful space, equipped. Very reasonable. Please call 550-8940.

Telecommunications Services. Residential/business. Jacks installed and wiring for phones, computers, intercoms, CATV. Sales, installation, and repair of telephone, voice mail, intercom, security camera, and door-answering systems. Residential remodel, new construction, commercial consultation. Free estimates. Quality work—reasonable rates. All Wired Communications, Lic. #796389. Kent, 401-0214.

Cleaning Services. For houses, apartments, offices, and hotels. Excellent references, professional. For more details, call Sonia, 650-588-2386.

Foot Massage/Reflexology. Relaxing, revitalizing, healing 60-minute session. Quiet location. References. 12 years experience. Trained in Asia. Licensed in San Francisco. Call Stephen Cavaliere at Wisdom Fitness of Noe Valley, 415-505-0409.

Health and Fitness Support Group forming. As we approach our 60s, 70s, and 80s, we want to be able to do most of the things we did when we were younger! Learn how. Ages 40s to 60s ideal for this group. 415-668-8310.

Meditation Workshop. This is a practical workshop that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. It's suitable for beginners and more experienced students who want to be inspired. Tuesday, Sept. 10, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references. Reliable and professional. Reasonably priced. Six days a week. Nubia, 650-758-2345.

Charlie the Phone Guy: Residence, business, home office telephone wiring. Fax/modem lines, DSL, Ethernet, too! Dead jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. On-time appointments! Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654. E-mail sfphoneguy@aol.com.

Handier Andy. Home repairs, carpentry, stairs, decks, fences, sheetrock, ceramic tile, painting. 415-564-1175.



Professional Dog Walker. Offering weekday walks for your four-footed friend (tripods welcome!). Separate group for little dogs. Experienced, gentle Noe Valley professional with behavior and training background and ARC pet first-aid/CPR certification.. Clever Dog, 415-282-2242.

Pilates Mat at Home or Work. Beth Liber, certified Pilates instructor, travels to you, or you work out of her Noe Valley home studio. Benefits include: lengthening and strengthening muscles, improving posture and balance, increasing range of motion, flexibility, and energy, and conducting everyday activities with greater ease. All levels welcome. Affordable rates. Privates, semi-privates, or group classes. For more information or to schedule appointment, visit <http://www.soundbodypilates.com>, e-mail info@soundbodypilates.com, or call 415-695-0908.

Bed and Breakfast "Cottage Gate." Charming studio apartment; queen bed, kitchenette, breakfast choices provided, phone, cable, private bath, security gate, level private entrance. 20th and Douglass. 415-626-6497.

Long-Term Care and Medical Insurance. Free quote for individuals, families, and companies. Expert help at no extra cost! 14 years experience. "A" rated plans. Bill Hannant, 647-7012. License 0723231.

Superlative Word Processing. Experienced professional, B.A. English, M.S.W. Understandable advice. Business, medical, academic, legal; resumes, manuscripts. Expert editing. Fax machine. Laser printing. Good rates. Call anytime. 824-7736.

Carpentry: All Aspects. Great references, 20 years experience, local resident. Jeffrey, 753-1707.

Drop-In Hatha Yoga. Learn yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques. We offer Prenatal, Parent/Baby, Gentle, and Advanced Yoga classes, too. Beginners are welcome. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Classes daily. Phone 415-821-1117 for the class schedule. \$9 (\$6 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

House Cleaning. Homes, apartments, offices. References available. Experienced. Call Kathia and Eliene, 650-991-4188.

Abdominal Massage. Chi Mei Tsan is an ancient Taoist technique that works directly on the abdomen and internal organs. It uses gentle rocking rhythmic movements to wake up the body. Very good for digestive problems, low back pain, and emotional issues. Noe Valley location. Call Catherine at 771-0480.

Roofing Professional. Many years experience. Three years architecture school. Bachelor's degree. Dutch gutters plus all general roofing problems solved. References and guaranteed materials. Quality metal work. Shingles, flat roofs, cedar siding, gutters, new skylights. 415-978-9375.

Guitar Lessons. Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

40¢ a word!

NOE VALLEY VOICE
CLASS ADS

The deadline is the 15th of the month.

All Things Macintosh: Internet making you crazy? Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring. References. Roslyn, 510-526-1209.

Controlled by Food? Freedom and relief are available. Come to an ongoing therapy group for women. Lorraine Woods, M.A. 415-978-0858.

Tuning to the Cosmic Sound. Come join us for two hours of chanting the sacred mantram, *Om Hreem Namah Shivaya*. It is a "bijam" or seed mantram, which brings out the universal vibration. By concentrating on this inner vibration, you tune yourself with the cosmic sound. You will open to the very source of your true nature. Friday, Sept. 27, 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Time for a Change? I believe you already know everything you need to know to live a rich and fulfilling life. Sometimes, though, we lose touch with this knowledge. Psychotherapy can help you reconnect. My areas of interest and experience include life transitions, identity issues, chronic illness, mind/body connections, anxiety/panic, grief, creativity, lesbian/gay issues, depression, early traumas, and crosscultural issues. Sliding scale. Marilyn Jean, L.M.F.T. #35206. Noe Valley, 789-8506.

Drowning in Papers? Cluttered Closets? Enjoy more freedom and ease. Non-judgmental help to create an organized, peaceful environment in your home/office. Susan Bloch, 282-0218.

House Cleaning. Homes and apartments. Excellent references and prices. Offering service seven days a week. For more details, call Maria, 415-841-9875.

Drop-In Parent/Baby Yoga. This class is for parents and their pre-crawling babies. It includes gentle stretching, chanting, breathing, deep relaxation, sharing, and discussion. Fridays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 24 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bennett, 648-1007.

House Cleaning. Excellent references. Reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Six days a week. Leidiane, 415-334-9348.

Handywoman Julie will repair those inside and outside problems you aren't getting around to and wish you could. Get reliable, friendly, and creative help now. Call 550-6792.

Drop-In Prenatal Yoga. Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyful pregnancy and a more relaxed birth. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m., and Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Flute Lessons. Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. 20 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

House Cleaning. If you are looking for a responsible and honest person to clean your house, call Selva at 650-748-2496 or 415-203-2496.

Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi forms. Friendly, non-competitive. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Mornings by appointment, 10:15 a.m., Douglass Park, Douglass at 27th. \$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

Fog City Dog. "A nice walk in the Noe Valley." Bonded. Louis Olds, 824-9374.

Learn Spanish Now with Weekend en Español! Weekdays and weekends, all levels; also Medical Spanish. Or join us for *Semana en Español*, our unique total immersion program in Oaxaca, Mexico. New! Oaxaca for Non-Spanish Speakers, May 10 through 19! 415-923-0754; info@weekendenespanol.com.

Red's Hauling. Yardwork, basements, miscellaneous. Free estimates! 415-281-0732.

Evening Meditation. Join us for meditation Monday through Thursday at 7:45 p.m. This includes some chanting, pranayama, and silence, and lasts 40 minutes. Please come a few minutes early. There is no charge. Thursdays we offer an Introduction to Meditation at 7:30 p.m. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

House Cleaning. Homes, apartments, offices. References available. Experienced. Call Kathia or Theresa, 650-757-9006.

Architect. New buildings, remodels, additions. Very good record getting city approvals for projects. Innovative design and traditional (Victorian) design. On-site consultation on any project. Reasonable fees. Licensed architect for over 23 years. In Noe Valley since 1981. Call Michael Hager at 415-285-7409.

Short-Term Rental in Noe Valley. Spacious and charming furnished flat. Sleeps two to four. Close to 24th Street and Castro, with easy access to Muni and BART. \$795 per week or \$125 per night. 415-647-1714 or srladwig@yahoo.com.

Overwhelmed by Clutter? Relocating? As featured on HGTV, NPR, and in the *Chronicle*, Ship-Shape offers expert, simple solutions to what goes where. We will cut through clutter, defrizzle moves, and restore simplicity and peace of mind to busy lives. Homes, offices, packing, and more. Free phone consultation and brochure. 415-550-0658.

Spiritual Care and Counsel through life transitions. Ceremonies, celebrations, and healings. (Rev.) Angel Stork, 415-831-9429.

A Whole New Outlook! The Guttersnipes do windows. Free estimates. Senior discounts. 824-9374.

CLASSES

Charming Short-Term Rental. The Dolores Studio—sunny, furnished apartment with separate entrance, private bathroom, kitchenette. Looking onto lovely garden, it's ideal for visiting family, business, romantic weekend. Fabulous Noe Valley location. Reasonable rates. Samantha. 415-285-5677; doloresstudio@yahoo.com

I Love Cats! Petsitting. I have a wonderful rapport with cats and can provide reliable, experienced care for your pet when you are away. Very dependable, with excellent references. SF/SPCA volunteer. Please call JoAnn at 415-643-1557 for more information.

Weight Management with Hypnosis. Classes, individual sessions, and tapes. Noe Valley location. Kerstin Sjoquist, Certified Hypnotherapist. 415-385-8382; <http://www.consciousnessarts.com>.

Piano Lessons with patience and humor. All ages, all styles. Former member of Pickle Family Circus and S.F. Mime Troupe. Randy Craig, 415-334-2451.

Souza's Hauling and Cleaning. We can provide great hauling and cleaning for homes, buildings, garages, backyards, etc. We can collect junk and dump it at the dump site. We can help your movers or move your furniture. Best prices. Fast and reliable service. Try us, you won't forget us. 415-279-8391; anasouza56@hotmail.com.

Kirtan/Chanting. Kirtan is chanting of spiritual mantras, sounds, songs, and names in Sanskrit. This devotional practice is part of the Bhakti Yoga path, which leads to union with the Divine Consciousness. Kirtan quiets the mind and opens the heart. Please come join us for a joyful experience. Friday, Sept. 13, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Achieve Your Fitness Goals at Pilates, San Francisco, with certified trainer Leslie Streit. Individual sessions focus on your needs. Therapeutic approach. Near Noe Valley, right off junction of highways 101 and 280. Plenty of on-street parking. 415-468-7898; www.pilatesSF.com.

Housecleaning. Since 1979. Many original clients. Richard, 415-255-0389.

Furniture Restoration. Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery. Caning. Veneering. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Impressive portfolio and references. Estimates, pickup, and delivery available. Call Boris, 415-587-3416.

Business Opportunity: <http://ILD.net/?urawinner>

Vacation Room Rental, Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. Sue, 415-821-4890 or emarsh5108@aol.com.

Glowing with Radiant Health and Wellbeing. Come and experience how just with using the breath you can invigorate the body and mind, making it healthy and peaceful. We will explore the basis of the practices of pranayama and then experience the techniques. The practices will include three-part breathing, alternate nostril breathing, bhramari, kapalabhati, and an introduction to the bandhas. Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.



Fog City Petsitting. Since 1988. Felines are my specialty. Vacation care, assistance with medical treatments.... Don't hesitate to call for additional information: 835-2107, Julie.

Adriano Hauling and Cleaning. Any and all old furniture, refrigerators, freezers, and general refuse. We are your friendly junk disposal guys! 415-990-4062.

Shared Office for Rent. Bright, big, sunny office on corner of 24th and Sanchez (above Juice It), to share with two designers. \$495 includes utilities. Details: www.studiozgraphics.com/office. Call Zoe, 285-4111.

Suppression Can Lead to Depression. Make room for all of you! Enjoy therapeutic arts-based expression. You will thank yourself. Sue Lebeck, M.A., Expressive Arts Therapist. 415-821-3456.

Thai Yoga Massage and Classical Shiatsu. Light to medium or deep pressure. Comfortable, healthful stretches. 60/90/120-minute sessions, \$75/\$110/\$145. Peaceful location. References. 12 years experience. Trained in Asia. Licensed in San Francisco. Call Stephen Cavaliere at Wisdom Fitness of Noe Valley, 415-505-0409.

Bhagavad Gita Course Class. This class studies the ancient Indian spiritual classic *Bhagavad-Gita* (*Song of God*), with an emphasis on how to apply the spiritual principles into daily life. Required reading: *The Living Gita* (available at the Institute for \$17). Please register in advance. Call 415-821-1117. Five Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$45. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Tape Transcription. Call Joanne at 415-431-0603.

Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level. Living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Reasonably priced. Call 206-0202.

Free Fantastic Fitness Classes for 50-plus folks. Daly City and Pacifica. 282-8983 for specifics.

Puppy Playgroups!!! Focusing on good manners, behavior training, and basic obedience. Certified, experienced Noe Valley professional. Clever Dog, 415-282-2242. Gentle, reward/praise-based training. All dog friendly methods!!!

Bodywork and Movement Analysis. Claudia Singer, C.M.T., C.L.M.A., S.H.P.E. Rehabilitate from injury, improve alignment, release excess tension, improve athletic performance through movement and hands-on work. Call 415-820-1410.

Fast Cash for Your Property! Top dollar paid. Any property, any condition. Licensed broker. 415-876-0500.

Zelia's Cleaning Services for experienced, thorough, spotless houses, apartments, and offices. Excellent references. Cleaning services seven days a week. Please call Zelia at 650-992-0870, 415-637-9419, or 415-577-0601.



Computer Driving You Nuts? I resolve problems. I've many enjoyable years fixing PCs and Macs. Hardware/software, simple/complex. Reasonable rates. Honest, prompt work. Richard, 415-681-8842.

Stereo Repair House Calls or home theater setup? Gene's Sound Service makes it easy... and convenient, with a day, evening, or Saturday appointment. All repairs done on-site. Car stereos, also. "Gene's honest and knows his stuff; give him a try," says Bobby McFerrin. Call Gene at 377-1258.

Two-Hour Hatha/Raja Yoga Class. Mixed-level. This class consists of extended Hatha Yoga poses, pranayama, meditation, and a discussion of how to calm the mind and abide in our place of peace and joy. Tuesdays, 9 to 11 a.m. \$10. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Stop Looking for It! We got it! The best cleaning you've ever had. We clean offices, houses, apartments, etc. Free estimates! Call 415-845-3688.

A New Leaf. Fine pruning, Bonsai, and tree care specialist. Garden renovation, restoration, and installation, irrigation and lighting systems. General property and garden maintenance. Ten years experience. Many Noe Valley clients. Call David at 415-293-3033.

Garden Cottage in the Heart of Noe Valley. Perfect for visiting friends and family. Secluded and detached with private deck. Completely furnished. Fully equipped kitchen. Cable TV/VCR, stereo, 5 CD, cassette, telephone. Short-term rental. Minimum two nights. Sleeps two. Non-smoking. 415-970-8177; sfcottage4rent@aol.com.

House Cleaning. Are you looking for a reliable person to clean your house? You can count on me. Available seven days a week. Good references and own transportation. Erica or Zeze, 415-948-9007.

Beginners Hatha Yoga Course. Hatha Yoga strengthens and purifies the circulatory, digestive, endocrine, and nervous systems, releasing physical toxins and mental tension. This class allows for personal attention and in-depth instruction on basic yoga postures. Please bring a towel or mat, refrain from eating for at least two hours before class, and wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing. Please register five days in advance. Call 415-821-1117. Six Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$54. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

House Cleaning Available. Excellent references, reliable. Own car. Call 415-596-3700.

Handyman/Carpenter. Repair a door, install cabinets or shelves, fix a fence, deck, or windows; even some electrical. I do good work at a reasonable rate. Robert, 566-3389.

Faith: The Bottom Line. What do we have faith in? Does this faith see us through the hard times? Does our faith grow and mature, or does it become fallible and evaporate? Come join this workshop and we will explore our understanding of faith and how it can grow and nurture us. Wednesday, Sept. 18, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Tired of Feeling Sick and Tired? If you are concerned about your relationship with drugs/alcohol, please call Blair Drummond, Board Certified Alcohol and Drug Specialist, for confidential assessment. 441-2323.

House Cleaning. Are you looking for a reliable person to clean your house? You can count on me. Available seven days a week. Good references and own transportation. Erica/Zeze, 415-948-9007.

Phil's Window Cleaning Service. Reliable/courteous. Free estimates for residential/commercial. 415-668-8310.

Laughing Meditation. This fun workshop involves some Hatha Yoga poses, extended conscious laughter, followed by a silent meditation. Dress for Hatha Yoga, bring a towel, and expect to have a wonderful, fun time. Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

House Cleaning. If you need someone to do an excellent cleaning of your house, office, or apartment, please call 415-279-8391.

Aikido for Kids: In this unique and effective martial art, your child will develop non-violent self-defense skills, flexibility, strength, agility, and have fun, too! For information call 777-2833.

How to Place a Class Ad

IT'S EASY. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ A WORD**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time.)

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the October 2002 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before October 1. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS SEPT. 15, 2002.**

Note: Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed on our web site (www.noevalleyvoice.com) for one month.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

PC Tech/NT Administrator Available to maximize your capability. Personable, personalized computer assistance where and how you want it. Network, desktop, Lan, Wan. Data security or data recovery. Win98, NT4, Win2000, WinME, WinXP. Tips, tweaks, troubleshooting. Software and hardware installation and configuration. \$35 per hour, special rates for non-profits. Paul Jimerson, 415-503-0223; pj@melangenet.net

Studio or Room short or long term. 415-826-1158

"Such Gardens Are Not Made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade"—Kipling. Ecologically sound garden restoration, cultivation, and maintenance. Cleanups, pruning, planting, feeding, and weeding. You do the singing and I'll do the work. Call Lisa at Sweet Pea Gardening, 415-775-2246. Serving Noe Valley for six years.

Russian River Vacation Home. Two-bedroom, two-bath, hot tub. Sleeps six. Huge sun deck, total privacy. \$800 per week. Modern art motif. 626-6715.

Sebastopol Getaway. Beautifully remodeled guest room with private entrance. Country setting, kitchenette, and TV sitting room. Minutes to shops, restaurants, antiques, etc. Non-smoking. Two-night minimum. Great rates! Dogs negotiable. 707-829-6867 or bhannant@msn.com

Does It Hurt Inside? So bad you can't let anyone see? The passage to freedom is here. Gentle, practical individual and couples therapy. Lesbian/gay/straight welcome. Offices in Noe Valley and on the Peninsula in Foster City. Julie Armer, M.A., L.M.F.T. Free 15-minute phone consultation. 415-882-1161 or 650-341-0617. Visit my web site: www.PersonalChange.org

Fun Art Workshops for adults and teens! Drawing, Painting, Astrology and Your Chart. Beginning Mosaics, Collage, and more! Check out www.artjuicestudios.com or call 824-5932. Small class size setting with personalized instruction in Potrero Hill.

Perfect Job for R.N. or stay-at-home mom. Busy Noe Valley pediatrics office seeks R.N. for occasional vacation coverage. Fax resume to 415-826-1308.

www.noevalleyvoice.com

Our web site

features news, photos, archives of past stories, and the current issue's classified ads.

How to Buy a Home With Absolutely No Money Down

San Francisco – A new home ownership program allows qualified buyers to buy a home with absolutely no down payment.

You may have owned a home before and are presently renting, or maybe you are a first time homebuyer and need a way to break into the housing market but are holding back because you think you require \$20,000, \$30,000 or even more for a down payment.

Well, regardless of your present situation, if you want to get into, or re-enter the housing market without having to make a cash down payment, then this new program may be just what you're looking for. Why pay your landlord's mortgage when you can be building your own equity.

Industry insiders have prepared a new special report entitled, "How to Buy a Home With Zero Down" which reveals how this new and innovative program can get you into the housing market immediately and with absolutely no down payment.

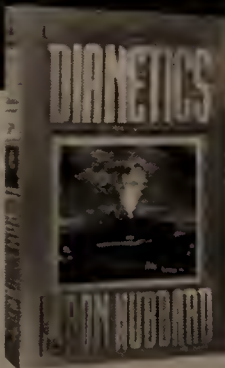
To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call 1-888-224-2312 and enter ID# 1025. Call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and discover how you can get into the housing market NOW and with ABSOLUTELY NO DOWN PAYMENT.

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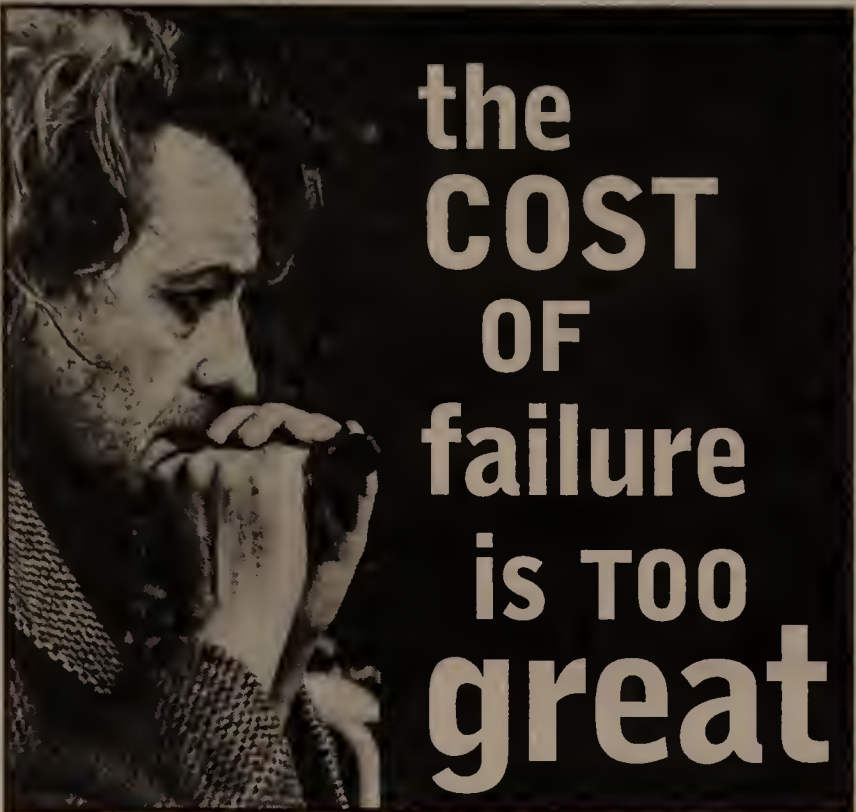
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More than 1,000 homeless San Franciscans died on our streets during the past decade. Nearly half were victims of drug and alcohol overdoses.

These deaths are the consequence of a broken system that has failed to reduce homelessness and is not providing adequate life-saving care for San Franciscans in need.

Proposition N, the Care Not Cash Initiative written by Supervisor Gavin Newsom, will save lives by fundamentally reforming how we provide care to the homeless.

Proposition N will make sure we can provide real care, such as:

- treatment for drug and alcohol addiction
- decent housing ■ medical care ■ job training

Right now homeless San Franciscans receive a small cash grant that fails to meet their basic needs. Proposition N will replace this all-cash system with guaranteed services that will help us save lives and transition homeless people to stable housing and employment. Almost every major county in California has already ended cash-only systems and replaced them with a service-based model like Care Not Cash.

Medical professionals have found that cash-only systems contribute to drug and alcohol overdoses. A recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed a direct correlation between cash grants like those given in San Francisco and drug overdoses.

Our current system is broken – and the cost of failure is a shocking toll of drug and alcohol overdoses. It is time to adopt a proven reform like Care Not Cash that will save lives.

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Vote Yes on Prop. N

and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Your Washington Correspondent

By Mazook

FRIENDS, RELATIVES, AND HOUSEGUESTS from back east have probably left by now, after marveling at our quaint little valley nestled into one of the hilliest cities in the world.

Did you enjoy taking them on those walks in Downtown Noe Valley? Of course, you had to apologize for the cold weather (except when we had that three-day heat spell). I'll bet you also explained that summer arrives in San Francisco somewhere around Sept. 15 and departs by Halloween, when the winds sweep down from Alaska.

It was easy to load your visitors on the J-Church so they could ride downtown to the cable cars, then over to Fisherman's Wharf. Yes, I know they laughed when you told them to dress warmly. But they were glad you did.

Oh, and congratulations on convincing your friends to make that hike up 24th Street to Grand View. I'd like to think many of you continued the climb up to Twin Peaks, to catch that absolutely fantastic view of Noe Valley from the vista point. Personally, I try to be kind and offer to drive my friends in the car, so they can make full use of their digital cameras. Of course, whenever I do, the fog comes rolling in, turning the photo-ops to whiteouts.

Well, I know you are happy they are finally gone, and believe me, they are happy to be gone too, and to be back in their own little beds on the Right Coast (not that we're wrong).



BUCKLING UP THE BELTWAY: This summer it was my turn to go back east to visit the relatives and friends. And I've got to tell you, I was longing for my own bed, and for the fog, from my very first night on foreign soil. We (the family and I) landed at Newark International Airport and scurried to an air-conditioned Marriott Hotel in sweltering Jersey City, N.J.

From there it was on to the Big Apple (Manhattan), and then up to blueblood country (Connecticut) by car, then down to Washington by train, wrapping things up with a flight to the Bible Belt (west Georgia).

The heat followed us wherever we went. Temperatures were in the 90s to the 100s, with the humidity and the mosquitoes in the 1,000s.

Despite the weather, New York City was great—the New Yorkers make it that way. And Connecticut was nice. We went to a wedding in Redding, Conn., and I got the feeling I was somewhere between Mill Valley and Bolinas, both physically and spiritually. But I'll tell you, folks, being inside the Beltway (D.C.) was like being somewhere between Belarus and Bombay, both psychologically and politically. Washington is leaderless.

Still, we saw one shining light, Sen. Barbara Boxer. She was hosting her weekly tea, where she spoke of matters of the day and gave

everyone the opportunity to have a picture taken with her. When we told her we were from Noe Valley, she said she knew our neighborhood and sent her regards.

By the way, you too can invite yourself to this function, which is held every Wednesday in the Senate Office Building while Congress is in session. Her office was very accommodating and gave us gallery passes for the Senate and House of Representatives. Senator Boxer definitely has her finger on the pulse, and we are lucky to have her in Washington.

After brief encounters with both chambers (and four security checks), we came away thinking that most of our legislators have no plans to solve our national problems. The name of the game is: Get reelected. That's it.

In the House, they were debating an issue—federal sanctions for partial-birth abortions—that should only be discussed in private, between doctor and patient. This was certainly not the kind of debate my 9- and 10-year-old should be listening to, but then neither were the impeachment hearings a few years ago.

Over in the Senate, we saw a quorum call to vote on a measure that would put limits on drug prices for the elderly and disabled. The drug companies are against this legislation, and they buy off the legislators with big bucks. So there were no senators on the floor, nor would they answer the roll call, because they did not want to go on record with a "no" vote. The measure never came to a vote...and probably never will.

We left the Senate gallery totally disgusted and went down to the Capitol rotunda in hopes of rekindling some faith in our democracy. There we gazed at our forefathers, depicted in numerous paintings and sculptures.

After looking at a beautiful painting of the brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence, I went to the middle of the hall and peered up at the heavenly images painted on the dome. Engravings over the door mantels declared "In God We Trust." Just as I was starting to believe again that our form of government is the best in the world, a guard came up and informed me that the building's security video system had been monitoring my family from the Senate chambers. They had observed that we were neither on a guided tour nor were we being escorted by a staffer, so we would have to leave "uh, now." I had seen enough barricades and security checks to know to say "Yes, sir!"

I knew it was time to get out of town. It seems everyone in Washington is thinking they will be attacked again and that it won't

be just the Pentagon next time. Days later, I was happy to see Dulles Airport getting smaller and smaller as we rose up in the air.

By the time we got off the midnight plane to Georgia, I was ready to meet the "we" who trust in God. My wife and kids and I were staying with some in-laws in a west Georgia county where there are 180 churches serving the 35,000 residents. That's 194.4 parishioners per house of worship.

I was lucky enough to be invited to a Kiwanis Club breakfast attended by over 60 people, where the area's district attorney spoke. There I met a local who asked if I knew the difference between a Georgia redneck and an Alabama redneck. His answer: "The state line." I also met the retired Navy officer whose name appeared in *Ripley's Believe It or Not*. Commander Commander. He said, "You can call me Buck." I said, "Yes, sir."

The last "Yes, sir!" I uttered was at the Atlanta Airport, when the ticket taker asked for boarding passes. I could hardly wait to get back to our valley. But upon my return, I realized that things around here had turned a bit, shall we say, ugly.



THE LOWDOWN ON THE SHOWDOWN: The nastiness stemmed from a proposed multi-unit development on the corner of 29th and Dolores streets, where Reilly's Mortuary is now. As usual, the neighbors were lined up on one side, and the developer and crew on the other. And they were destined to battle it out before the Board of Supervisors.

Still, before summer started, it seemed as if the builder and the neighbors were working things out. However, during your summer vacation, negotiations went south, like to the South Pole. On June 20, the Planning Commission voted 5-0 (two were absent) in favor of the builder, Joe Cassidy, after a heated public hearing that sent shock waves through our placid little valley.

Before getting to the dirt, here's a short history of the situation: A year and a half ago, the operation of a mortuary on that corner became a dead issue, as it were. The owner of the property wanted to sell it to a developer, who proposed to demolish the existing structures and

build a four-story residential building on the site. The developer eventually abandoned the project when he found himself at loggerheads with the neighbors.

About four months ago, Joe Cassidy, most famous locally for his complex next to Bell Market, entered the scene with plans to build a 13-unit residential building on the 10,850-square-foot lot.

According to Cassidy, he has made at least 10 major changes to the original plans just to appease the neighbors. He says he removed 5,000 square feet of commercial use on the ground floor (which it is zoned for) and doubled the parking by excavating another below-ground floor, at an additional cost of \$500,000 to \$1 million. He removed the white passenger loading zone, set back the fourth floor on Dolores Street by six feet, and also set back the upper floor at the rear of the building along the 29th Street side. For privacy, he included an eight-foot fence in the complex's newly designed backyard, and will plant 15 mature trees. A landscape architect was hired and a color consultant was consulted, and high-quality exterior finishes and wooden windows were added to the plans. Cassidy also agreed to "notch the end corners on both facades," at the request of the Planning Commission.

"We believed that we did as much as we could to accommodate the neighbors and to include affordable housing to comply with, if not exceed, city requirements. But they wanted me to remove most of the fourth floor, which makes the project not economically feasible," said Cassidy.



NOT JUST TALKING NOTCHES: Vicki Rosen, who is president of Upper Noe Neighbors, admits Cassidy has a point. "They doubled the parking, which is great, and we're happy about that. But there were still some major height and bulk issues. I mean, the neighbors simply don't want buildings which are massive when compared to the rest of the neighborhood. It's basically two 40-foot buildings, each four stories high."

"To make the facade more in character with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

the surrounding buildings," she said, "the neighbors would have been satisfied with an unprecedented four-floor height if Cassidy had just reduced the height of the end unit of each building to three stories. He refused, but said he was willing to create a 'notching' of the end corners of the buildings."

But it was his friends' testimony at the June hearing that raised her ire. "By the time we got to the Planning Commission meeting, it appeared that the Residential Builders Association was supporting this project and was well organized. They started attacking me personally, showing pictures of my house and making me an issue...and the commission did nothing to stop them," fumed Rosen.

Rosen said the other members of her group were even more stunned than she was by the personal attacks. "That goes with the territory of being a president of a neighborhood group, but what really got a lot of people going was when an individual who appeared to be associated with the RBA started making attacks on our neighborhood as being against the affordable housing in this project because we didn't want African-American, Hispanic, or Asian people in our neighborhood, and that we were basically a bunch of racists, who did not want apartments and affordable units in Noe Valley. That's outrageous."

Racial slurs or not, the commission voted to approve Cassidy's project—as long as he included those pesky notches.

☎ ☎ ☎

CIVILITY RETURNS: Many of the neighbors within 100 yards of the mortuary either saw or heard about the confrontation at the Planning Commission. They were so incensed they appealed the ruling to the Board of Supervisors. In August, Upper Noe Neighbors wrote a letter in support of the appeal, and so did Friends of Noe Valley and the Duncan Newburg Association.

By Aug. 26, the hearing date for the appeal, everybody thought the proceedings would again turn nasty. Many TV sets in Noe Valley were tuned to Channel 26 at 3 p.m. for the supervisors' kickoff and those first plays from scrimmage. Amazingly, everybody was cool, calm, and cogent. It was democracy in action.

The elders of the block were the most eloquent in their appeals for light and air, and buildings that maintain the character of the neighborhood. The other residents expressed their concern that four stories would set an unwanted precedent in the neighborhood.

The developer's cohorts argued that the project was in conformance with the code, in both height and bulk, and that it sits on a corner lot on one of the widest streets in San Francisco. It will provide much-needed family housing in Noe Valley, and the builder has met many of the neighbors' concerns (14 by his latest count). "This kind of development should be encouraged," they said.

☎ ☎ ☎

A VOTE TO VOTE: After more than four hours of public discussion, the vote was to, well, take another vote, on Sept. 17. But that decision came after the supes had already voted on the appeal. (Mark Leno made a motion to rescind the vote.)

The original vote was seven for the appellants (neighbors) and four against the appeal (for the Planning Commission). In order to win the appeal, the neighbors needed eight votes.

The four supervisors in favor of the development were, predictably, Tony Hall, Gavin Newsom, Leland Yee, and, very unpredictably, Chris Daly. Chris Daly, who is perceived to be pro-neighborhood, seemed to be the wild card. Methinks that if all 11 supervisors are there on the 17th, the vote will be the same, and the old wrecking ball will be swinging at the mortuary soon thereafter.

☎ ☎ ☎

PERUSING THE AGENDA can provide you with lots of news. On the Board of Supervisors' Aug. 5 agenda was a proposed enlargement of the Area Z parking permit area to include 27th Street between Noe and Sanchez.

It also appears that Sanchez Street between

Hill and Liberty streets, as well as Hill Street between Church and Sanchez, have joined a permit parking area called "S." Cars without stickers in those areas will be allowed to park no longer than two hours.

I was also reading the Friends of Noe Valley's agenda for their Sept. 12 general meeting, at which there will be an election of officers. If you want to become involved, you can join one of their committees: Planning, Parks, Open Space and Trees, Kids and Schools, Parking, Traffic and Transit, Library, or Social Events and Membership. This is your neighborhood: go for it.

☎ ☎ ☎

THERE'S NOE TRUTH to the rumor that an Italian bistro will occupy the hallowed grounds that once housed Star Bakery, on the corner of Church and 29th streets. This is the word from Richard Beale, a real estate agent from San Mateo County who is managing the property for a new owner.

"The whole building is for lease," notes Beale. "The owner is asking five thousand dollars a month for the store, and either \$1,600 or \$1,700 a month for the two newly renovated one-bedroom apartments on the second floor. Or you can just buy the whole building for \$1.375 million."

In the five days that he has been managing the property, Beale says he has received numerous inquiries about the residences, and interest in the commercial space from a restaurant and a mail-order bakery.

Our French bistro, Le Zinc, is featured in the just-released *The Cafes of San Francisco*, authored by several reviewers. "It looks like a place where you can eat a long slow savory meal followed by a soothing tea or relaxing espresso." Somehow I can never get that espresso to relax me.

Diamond Corner Café and Savor got honorable mentions. "Completely down-to-earth" Diamond Corner is known for "great light, a nice view of the nearby hills, [and] is located in the residential part of desirable Noe Valley."

"Savor," said the reviewers, "has THE best pancakes in San Francisco, infused with spices such as vanilla and who knows what else to pretty much make you want to fight the lines waiting outside on the weekends."

☎ ☎ ☎

24TH STREET STRIP: The vacancy created when Getups got up out of their digs next to Elisa's Health Spa is now filled by a woman's clothing boutique called Yoya.

"We should be opening sometime around the beginning of September," says owner Phoebe Jacobson. "We are going to feature local designers and bring in some European designers and a lot of high-quality active wear."

Jacobson lives in the Inner Sunset but was delighted that a suitable location opened up for her new venture. She was formerly a designer of computer software.

I had to laugh as I walked up the block from Yoya, when I looked in the window of Twin Peaks Realty and saw what proprietor Harry Aleo had put in his now-famous front window: an old campaign placard, "Goldwater for President."

☎ ☎ ☎

ONE COOL SCHOOL: Kudos to Alvarado Elementary School, right here in the heart of Noe Valley. The parental involvement in the school over the last couple of years is finally getting the recognition it deserves. The *Chronicle's* Aug. 11 back-to-school story, "It Takes a Neighborhood," noted that "a decade ago, residents say few people from the neighborhood wanted to send their children [to Alvarado]. Today, it's one of the toughest schools to get into in the San Francisco Unified School District's open enrollment program."

The big reason: parental involvement. As the paper pointed out, the role model at Alvarado has for years been Ruth Asawa, founder of the arts programs. Now her son Paul Lanier teaches at Alvarado, and there are dedicated parents like Andy Grinstead, who sets up a card table on 24th Street to do community outreach.

Reach out and do your community this month by signing up to volunteer for your favorite group...and let's start thinking about tomorrow. Ciao for now. ☐

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Bless the Etceteras

❖ WORDS: LESLIE STEERE / PHOTOS: SHERYL SCHINDLER ❖

BLESS THE ETCETERAS

Then
there were those days and years
of needing the big payoff:
torturous loves,
amazing feats of daring,
the calendar overfilled
with demands for your presence
everywhere.
Those days when
nothing but the ultimate
warranted your passions,
when details
were annoying as weeds in the garden:
attended to only as a means
of keeping the path clear—
that path from wherever you stood
twitching and dreaming
to wherever you thought you needed to be
instead.



Now
bless the daily motion
of spreading toothpaste on the bristles
of a toothbrush;
the arm that lifts the hand to mouth;
the mirror that verifies
again
the pieces of your smaller world—
your face, towels on the rack, that chipped paint
on the wall behind you—
stand in the same relationship
as they did yesterday,
the day before,
last week.



Now bless
the getting up
and the lying down
and all those uncounted steps between—
where coffee brews
soups boil
clothes fold
children demand
and are appeased
eyes squint against light
lights flick on against the dark
prayers are offered
or withheld
and under the stars again
you feel the slight tilting
as earth
spills you toward another day.

Now bless now
and then.

Leslie Steere lives in Pacifica and makes a living as a technology and business editor in Silicon Valley. She survives by writing poetry in 10-minute snatches of time to share with a writing group that after meeting for more than 14 years is finally preparing a collection for print. She wrote "Bless the Etceteras" in October 2001 in response to the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center. "I saw the World Trade Center collapse live on the early morning news and lived through the same two or three days of bewilderment everyone else did," Steere recalls. "More than ever, I felt blessed to be alive, in my life, in this world, aware of the importance of noticing and appreciating every detail of it."

Sheryl Schindler lives in the South of Market area and for the past 15 years has been a partner in Swanda & Schindler Photography in San Francisco. Commercial photography is her work, and documentary/editorial photography her art.